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FBIS-LAT-88-241 *15 December 1988*

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Cuba

Theological Reflection Day Inaugurated, Begins

FL1412150488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] In the Venice Church in Marianao, Havana City Province, the day of theological reflection was inaugurated on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The event is sponsored by the Cuban Ecumenical Council and its purpose is to analyze and evaluate the conduct of churches, institutions, and Cuban ecumenical movements during the past few years.

Among the topics to be discussed are relations between the church and the revolution. The participants will emphasize the critical, creative, and rectifying solidarity with the revolution on this 30th anniversary.

In addition to Cuban organizations, the event is attended by religious groups from other countries and foreign personalities who, during these past few years, have shown their solidarity with the Cuban people.

The event ends 18 December.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Windward Islands To Discuss Political Union

FL1412141688 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles says leaders of the four Windward Islands will meet for talks on political union. In the next 3 months, Prime Minister Charles said, intensive discussions will be going on in each territory.

At a summit of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States last month, leaders from St Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, and St Vincent agreed to go ahead with political union without the Leeward Islands of St. Kitts-Nevis, Antigua, and Montserrat.

Barbados

Foreign Ministry Supports Palestinian Demands

FL1512004388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 14, CANA—Barbados on Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to support the Palestinians' demand for a separate homeland. A ministry of Foreign Affairs release here said Barbados had adopted and maintained a principled and balanced position on the question of Palestine.

"It supports the rights of the Palestinian people to a homeland, as well as the right of Israel to exist within secure borders," the Foreign Ministry said.

"Barbados also recognises the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and therefore supports resolutions aimed at solving the Palestinian question, including those calling for the holding of an international peace conference of the Middle East with PLO participation," the release added.

The ministry said Barbados Ambassador to Brussels Orlando Marville will represent the country at the United Nations debate on the question of Palestine in Geneva from December 13-15. The session was relocated to Geneva because the PLO leader Yasir Arafat was refused a visa to enter the United States to address the General Assembly in New York.

Barbados was one of the numerous General Assembly member countries which voted in favour of a resolution deploring the U.S. failure to re-consider its decision on the visa request.

Dominican Republic

Electricity Supply Fails; Plants Shut Down

FL1412163388 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1008 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The supply of electricity failed again yesterday when the (Itado) No 2 plant broke down. The situation continued to worsen yesterday afternoon when the Haina IV plant shut done. The Haina IV plant was shut down because of boiler problems and this has increased the electricity deficit to 200,000 kilowatts.

The (Itado) No 2 plant ceased operating at 0634 yesterday due to a high consumption of water but, this did not cause a general blackout as was feared by the administrator of the Dominican Electricity Corporation, Eng (Carlos Guillen Meras).

Other plants affected besides the No 2 plant and Haina IV are two plants in Puerto Plant and the turbo gas plants in San Pedro de Macoris and Barahona.

Customer Complaints Noted

FL1412160088 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0944 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The blackouts that occurred yesterday affected domestic and industrial activities, as well as vehicular transportation. The increased disruption in the supply of electricity is due to the breakdown [disparo] of the (Itado) No 2 plant as it was generating 132,000 kilowatts of electricity, 7,000 kilowatts above its capacity. The plant was being tested when it experienced a setback yesterday morning.

It was explained to journalists that the breakdown of the plant was due to a high consumption of water, thus shutting down 12 Santo Domingo circuits. Ten other circuits were affected in the northern and eastern part of the country.

As the blackouts worsened, the Cadena de Noticias newsroom received calls from people protesting the inconveniences caused by the outages.

Haiti

Officials, Journalists Discuss Draft Decree

FL1412140288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] There was a discussion of the draft decree creating the Electoral College of Haiti, or Cedha, yesterday evening at the Hotel Le Palace. One of our reporters was present.

[Reporter] There was a press conference held at the Hotel Le Palace on Monday 12, December. Officials from three political parties were present: (Claude Eveillard), president of the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces; (Evans Bordes), president of the Unified Haitian Civic Action Movement; and Seymour Romain, president of the Haitian National Democratic and Progressive Party [Pati Nasyonal Demokratik Progresis Ayisyen].

Political scientist (Wilfrid Solages) was also present, as was the Haitian Professional Journalists Association [Asosyasyon Jounalis Profesyonel Ayisyen]. They all gathered to give their opinions on the draft decree creating the Cedha.

This press conference was also held with a view to permitting Haiti's political class to reach a consensus, a political synthesis, on a matter of national interest; and also to put an end to the verbal fighting—and the fighting among clans—going on among the opposition in connection with this draft decree.

According to Mr Seymour (?Romain), the draft decree does not respect the spirit of the 1987 Constitution:

[Begin recording, in mixed French and Creole] The spirit of the Constitution is that the executive be set completely aside, regarding all preparations connected with the elections. That is the spirit of the 1987 Constitution. However, the text of the decree says: This draft project stems from the president's desire [volonte] to endow the country with institutions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to Mr (Claude Eveillard), the draft decree should stem from the 1987 Constitution. [passage omitted]

Lawyer (Wilfrid Solages), who analyzed the draft decree from the legal point of view, said that the government's idea to submit a draft decree to the Haitian people is a very good idea; however, he thinks the draft decree must now be analyzed point by point.

[Begin (Solages) recording] The initiative was, or rather is, a good one. Now it remains for the political parties, the media, and all concerned to analyze this draft decree and reach a consensus on the matter. That's what I said the last time; and this is where I perhaps differ a bit from some of my colleagues, who think the draft decree should be rejected immediately without analyzing it. I think it has to be analyzed, to see if it (?needs) modifications, or changes. [end recording]

The lecturers say they must manage to put an end to all the contradictions, and differences (?in thought about) this draft decree in order to analyze how the decree was presented, and its true essence.

PDCH Refutes Allegations Against Party Leader

FL1412134588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] has issued a press release in which it accuses certain Interior Ministry officials of trying to set up party leader Rev Sylvio C. Claude, and ruin his reputation—by having people believe that the pastor was on the Port-au-Prince City Hall payroll under Mrs Carmen Christophe. The PDCH wonders why the Ministry of Interior and National Defense is interested in preparing a dossier on Sylvio Claude. The PDCH adds: Reports from different human rights delegations indicate who instigated the massacres on Ruelle Vaillant and throughout Haiti. Why doesn't the Ministry of Interior prepare dossiers on these criminals instead, and send them to the Justice Department so that legal action can be taken?

Further in its press release, the PDCH says that Rev Sylvio Claude and Mrs Carmen Christophe had a good relationship; Mrs Carmen Christophe used to do favors for Claude—such as giving him a $700 check so that he could receive the participants from the party congress last 7 December. The PDCH wonders if anyone thinks that Mrs Carmen Christophe used City Hall funds.

In conclusion, the PDCH press release says: If Mrs Christophe did indeed do this to corrupt Rev Sylvio Claude, then party of the poor will resist temptation in the future. In fact, this will not be the first time someone has attempted to ruin Rev Sylvio C. Claude, says the press release signers, (Joachim Pierre), (Menard Charles Roberts), and Daniel Charles.

Doctor Criticizes Government Over Deportation

FL1512010388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Dominican secret police arrested Dr Paul Etienne, the coordinator of the Good Samaritan Center on Thursday, 8 December. [passage omitted]

Dr Paul Etienne returned to Haiti, where he spoke to a Tele-Haiti reporter. His statements astonished official circles here in Haiti.

Dr Paul Etienne said the Haitian authorities did nothing to aid in his release. However, Haitian officials say that the day after the arrest, the Foreign Ministry issued a press release, dated 9 December, in which it announced that it had immediately contacted the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic and asked for help from the Dominican authorities. Dr Etienne's release is the result of the Haitian Government's initiatives, an official source told RTNH.

Haitian Foreign Minister Serges Elie Charles yesterday morning granted the Dominican ambassador an audience. We wanted to interview the ambassador to get some answers regarding Dr Etienne's arrest and expulsion. However, the embassy's military attache did not agree to this. The attache said the ambassador is awaiting more information from his government before any statement.

There will be a press conference on the expulsion of Dr Paul Etienne today, Wednesday 14 December, at the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights.

French Socialist Party Press Release Cited

FL1412142088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] A press release from the French Socialist Party, authenticated by Victor Benoit, announces that two parties from the Haitian democratic left were invited to the meeting of the (?council of the Socialist Internationale) held in Paris on 5-7 December: Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], which was represented by Serges Gilles; and Conacom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements], was represented by Victor Benoit.

The press release says that these two leaders talked with Socialist Party First Secretary Pierre Mauroy and party International Relations Secretary (Pierre Guidonis).

The Socialist Party says it shares the wish that Haiti will again embark on the democratic path so that macoute violence can end; and that unfettered elections will be organized within the framework of the 1987 Constitution.

In this connection, (Pierre Guidonis), the Socialist Party's national secretary for international relations, said that the Haitian people can count on the solidarity of the French Socialists, according to the press release.

Ministry on New Jobs, Toxic Waste Problem

FL1412203188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications, TPTC, informs the general public that emergency work is going to be done. [passage omitted] This work will be done over a period of 6 months. It will begin this December and end in May of 1989.

The government expects this work to cost 6,477,015 gourdes. Out of this amount, 1,962, 286 gourdes will be for labor. The work will be financed by PL-480 Title II and the Haitian Government.

This project will allow the government to create, during the execution phase, some 1,000 jobs in the metropolitan area.

The ministry also takes this opportunity to announce that Minister Franck Paultre yesterday, 12 December, received met with Mr (Michel Saint-Lot), the representative of the Federation of Friends of Nature, FAN, to discuss the environment—in particular, the [toxic] waste that was dumped in Gonaives. The FAN's representative promised once again to send the minister the dossier on this waste.

Industrial Development Committee Established

FL1512005488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that a decree from the military government dated 6 December 1988, appoints the following people to the mixed consultative committee for industrial development, which will function for 1 year: Jean Edouard Baker, Edouard Baussan, Reynold Bonnefil, Guy Cuvilly, Roger Jaar, Gerard Moscoso, Charles Plaisimond, (Serges Pothel), Guy Riviere, and Georges Sicard.

The ministry also announces that, by presidential commission, Miss (Ulda Coq) has been appointed representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the civil court of Gonaives; Mrs (Florence A. Chalmers) has been appointed immigration officer; and Mr (Lamarre Baptiste) has been appointed surveyor for the commune of Grand Bois.

Union Extends Sympathies to Attacked Policeman

FL1412205488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The executive committee of the Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions [CSTH] has issued a press release expressing their consternation over the incident in which a group of lawless bandits attacked one of the most democratic officer in the traffic department.

The CSTH deplores this vile incident and extends its sympathy to Lieutenant Remy and all his brothers-in-arms from the traffic department. [passage omitted]

New Customs Director Installed in Cap Haitien

FL1412204988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The new director of Cap Haitien Customs, Mr (Rimpel Luc Joseph), was installed yesterday morning in Cap Haitien. Mr (Joseph) replaces Mr (Georges Main Prophete).

Also, the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that Mr (Archimede Augustin) has been appointed prefect of Vallieres by presidential commission.

Also, two new committees have been formed to manage the interests of the communes of Vallieres and Gonaives.

The committee for Vallieres is made up of (Saint-Louis Jean-Pierre), (Philippe Augustin), and (Ely Garconvil), president and members, respectively.

The committee for Gonaives is made up of Gabriel Jean, president; and Mrs Marie-Therese St Armand, and Jean Chery, members.

Communal Installation Marred by Protests

'Rara' Groups Cause Trouble

FL1412133188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] A new communal committee was installed yesterday morning in Gressier. There were rara groups [small, noisy groups traditionally seen around Carnival] in the streets. It is reported that the partisans of former magistrate (Valcius Estainval) were trying to do everything they could to prevent the new magistrate from being installed.

We remind listeners that (Valcius Estainval) was fired and later arrested. He was released yesterday morning. We will hear the details from our correspondent in Leogane.

[Begin correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon recording] The representative of the Ministry of Interior installed the new communal committee for Gressier on the morning of Monday, 12 December. The new committee is made up of (Lovens Romelus), (Jean Viaux), and (Joc David).

The ceremony was held in the public square because the partisans of former magistrate (Valcius Estainval), who did not want the new committee installed, shut down City Hall and took the keys. They also lowered the flag.

The new committee was to have been installed last Friday. The magistrates had already taken the oath of office at the Law Courts in Port-au-Prince and everything—but because of the situation on Friday, the committee could not be installed.

There were two sides last Friday in Gressier: one in favor of (Saint-Val) and one in favor of (Lovens Romelus). Both put out their rara groups. The same thing happened Monday morning, 12 December. During the installation ceremony, which did not really seem like an installation, the new magistrate's speech was drowned out by the rara group made up of (Estainval's) partisans. [passage omitted]

We must tell you that (Estainval's) partisans were very agitated. They even attacked me in my capacity as journalist.

Also, it is rumored that on Saturday afternoon, (Estainval) shot at two members of the new committee. (Estainval's) partisans denied this, but at approximately 0900 on Sunday [11 December] the Haitian Army managed to arrest (Estainval). They put him in jail in Fort Dimanche.

This is Jean Wilfrid Napoleon, Radio Soleil, Leogane. [end recording]

(Valcius Estainval), who was quickly released temporarily, is to appear in court this morning.

Ex-Magistrate Awaits Trial

FL1512011188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The trial of the former magistrate of Gressier, (Valcius Estainval), which was to have taken place yesterday morning at the Law Courts in Port-au-Prince has not yet taken place. While waiting for the case to go before a court, we will give you an idea of what happened, the way (David Jean-Baptiste Jean) told us the story.

The confusion occurred last Saturday [day as heard], after the installation of the new communal committee for Gressier.

According to Mr (Jean-Baptiste), (Estainval), the former magistrate of Gressier, accompanied by two aids, threatened two members of the communal committee who were on their way to the residence of Mr (Jean-Baptiste Jean) with a weapon. He added that the two men had no previous trouble with (Estainval) which would explain the former magistrate's attitude.

The matter is pending before an examining judge.

Tax Inspectors Request Bonus, Better Salaries

FL1412204188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] A group of inspectors from the DGI, the General Directorate for Taxes, has sent a letter to the Finance Ministry stating a desire to be paid the boni [a 13th month salary due most workers in Haiti under the Haitian labor code currently in force], as stipulated in the 1987 Constitution. The group says the boni is a last hope, constitutes an encouragement to all employees who work hard all year, and they have earned it.

The inspectors say they have not been paid the boni since Jean-Claude Duvalier left. All the finance ministers since then have deprived them of it. Therefore, they are asking the current minister for it and are awaiting his answer.

The inspectors also took the opportunity to ask for an improvement in the inspecors' salaries, and that the tax office be autonomous.

As we said, this was a note sent the Finance Ministry from a number of DGI inspectors.

Drivers Threaten Cessation of Fee Payments
FL1412193388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The metropolitan area public transportation vehicle drivers union had called a press conference for yesterday morning at its headquarters on Rue des Miracles. However, the press conference did not take place because journalists did not attend.

We ourselves interviewed Mr (Cajuste Lexius), the president of the metropolitan area's drivers union. Here is (Rochnel Charles) with more details.

[(Charles)] [Passage omitted] Union President (Cajuste Lexius) said the union wrote the traffic department and the Ministry of Public Works (?asking them to sit down and talk with the union) about the streets in Port-au-Prince, which are in terrible condition. Despite the quarrels that sometimes occur between drivers and traffic police, representatives from the traffic department sat down and talked to them, and Mr (Lexius) congratulates the traffic department for this. However, as for the department of public works, despite the fact that the Ministry of Public Works did answer them and gave them an appointment for 8 December, they were unable to see the minister of public works.

The union says they are not willing to play hide and seek anymore. Therefore, they are asking the minister of public works to tell them why he did not receive the union members. If this is not done by tomorrow at the latest, Union President (Lexius) declares that he will instruct all the drivers to refuse to pay to have their vehicles inspected.

[Begin (Lexius) recording] This makes us sick, because we know that we have rights. We are going to demand our rights before the minister. We are not going to go and ask him for favors. And we can guess why the minister does not want to see us. It is because he already knows our position. [passage omitted] We pay a bunch of taxes. And it is because we do pay taxes that we need to meet with the minister, so that he can solve the problem of the roads. [passage omitted]

There is a matter of being provisional—something like that. We are addressing the Ministry of Public Works. I mean, we wanted them to have a program to repair all the roads which are in a terrible state. That's why we wanted to see them—about the water on the road, and so forth.

However, since the minister refused to meet with us—I don't know, perhaps he had more important people to meet with and that's why he couldn't meet us—the union's position is, we are not going to ask for any favors, but rather we will demand our rights, that's why he doesn't want to receive us. And if this is not done quickly—I mean, if it isn't done by Tuesday, by tomorrow—we are going to ask all drivers—and we are going to ask the traffic department to support us by understanding our action—we are going to ask all drivers not to pay inspection. Because they say they have no money, but so many vehicles are inspected that the money from 1 month's worth of inspections would be enough to repair all the streets. [end recording]

PRT Agrees To Hold Talks With Salinas

PA1412005288 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Yesterday the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] agreed to talks with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to discuss and demand a solution to the people's problems and needs, stressing that such talks are not to be construed as "a political acknowledgment of the new administration's legitimacy."

Former PRT presidential candidate Rosario Ibarra de Piedra said: "We are not exchanging talks for political recognition. We are not proposing a democratic agenda for a national agreement that forgets the past. We are speaking out so that our demands are met by the new government."

Likewise, Ibarra de Piedra spoke in favor of a dialogue among the people and not among the leaders. She said she did not believe that national conciliation among leaders would satisfy people's demands, because "its sole purpose is to legitimize the new administration."

At a press conference, Ibarra de Piedra, together with Eduard Sanchez Ramirez and Hector de la Cueva, both members of the PRT's Political Committee, expressed their support for the amendments to the Federal Electoral Code.

They demanded an electoral law that wrests control of the entire electoral process from the contending parties; the creation of Anahuac State; and the restoration of political and electoral rights to the citizens of the Federal District.

The PRT leaders explained: "These are not proposals for a grand conciliation, but rather for democratic vindication."

In addition, they asked that the separation of church and state be maintained, and they called for an increase in the working people's standard of living, particularly regarding wage levels, which have been eroding in terms of buying power since 1976.

Likewise, the PRT leaders demanded the restoration of all of the PRT's legal and electoral rights. They said: "The government is under an obligation to restore all of our rights. We will also submit these demands to the appropriate judicial authorities."

At the press conference, the PRT representatives all agreed that Salinas de Gortari's government was somewhat weak, in spite of taking the initiative on a number of issues.

They said: "That is why Salinas de Gortari has had to appoint a balanced cabinet that tends to represent the opposing forces within the state apparatus and within the party. The departure of Luis Martinez Villicana from the Michoacan State government and the implied acknowledgment of irregularities committed during the electoral process, just after the dialogue with the opposition began, are some of the steps taken by the government to obtain its legitimacy."

The PRT leaders said: "We will hold talks, but we will not vouch for the government's legitimacy."

Petroleum Industry Needs Hydrocarbon Reserves

PA1412204288 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 16

[Excerpts] The Mexican petroleum industry must face the challenge of finding hydrocarbon reserves equivalent to 15.7 billion barrels of crude oil between 1989 and 2000. This is to satisfy domestic market requirements as well as to have oil continue as the main source of foreign currency.

A study by the Mexican Petroleum Institute adds the challenge of lowering oil production costs. In Mexico's case, "there is a great tendency for these costs to rise due to the ever-increasing depth of the high-yield oil fields and because smaller, better offshore oil fields have been developed at lesser water depths." [passage omitted]

It was reported that work on Pemex's Tuzandepetl project, which involves creating 12 caves for storing crude oil, is partially completed.

Bank of Mexico Reports Nov Price Increases

PA1412192788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Dec 88 pp 1, 17, 100

[Article by J. Antonio Zuniga M.]

[Summary] The Bank of Mexico has announced that the overall increase in consumer prices for November was 1.3 percent, the second largest increase during the 2d half of the year. This is a slight increase of 0.5 percent above October's increase, which brought the year's cumulative price increase to 48.6 percent. Among the causes of this upward trend, according to the bank, were the increased costs of fowl, house rentals, and fresh vegetables. Also mentioned was the delayed effect of the new official prices for beef and eggs, which were implemented in October. The bank pointed out, meanwhile, the lower prices of 121 generic products, including furniture, home appliances, some foods, toiletries, clothes, and school supplies.

Belize

Amendments to Constitution Pass House Vote

FL1512002488 Bridgetown CANA in English
2146 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Dec 14, CANA—The Belize Government has got support in the lower house of parliament to amend the Constitution to take away some of the power of the country's head of state, establish a secret intelligence service and give the government more power over the Elections and Boundaries Commission. Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel in steering the Constitution amendment bill through the House of Representatives said that the changes made by his government would "improve the Constitution to assure a fair and electorial system, justice for public officers and the security of Belize in our democratic tradition."

The Security Intelligence Service [SIS], was established by law in January of this year—a move which Esquivel said was "to ensure the appointment of SIS officers as a constitutional matter." But the opposition People's United Party of former Prime Minister George Price says that despite the incorporation of the secret police into the Constitution it will "ban the SIS" if it is re-elected.

In the other changes to the Constitution, the governor general has been removed as the chairman of the Belize Advisory Council which advises the government on the appointment of senior civil servants and related constitutional matters. And the Elections and Boundaries Commission, which was originally an independent body, will now be a government department under the minister of home affairs. A fourth major amendment put forward in June when the proposed changes were announced would have made it possible for the government to confiscate privately-owned land in "the national interest" without compensation to land owners. However, this was withdrawn. Opposition members had described that proposal as "an attack on the sacred right to the ownership of private property."

Esquivel got the two-thirds majority in the twenty-eight seat House of Representatives needed to make the constitutional changes. His United Democratic Party controls twenty-one of the twenty eight seats in the House. The seven-member Senate which has been discussing the amendments is made-up of four government appointees, two appointees from the opposition and one by the governor general.

Former UN Ambassador To Run for Assembly Seat

FL1412235988 Bridgetown CANA in English
1410 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Dec 14, CANA—Belize's former ambassador to the United Nations, Kenneth Tillett, has been picked to run for the Belize City Albert Constituency seat in the next general elections. Tillett, who recently resigned his post to run for political office, was elected to represent the ruling United Democratic Party [UDP] during a convention this week.

General elections are constitutionally due by 1990.

Tillett defeated Attorney Bernard Pitts in a bid to fill the vacancy as the UDP representative in the Albert Constituency.

Veteran politician Philip Goldson had announced that at the end of the current term of office of the present government, he will be retiring from active politics. Goldson gave his endorsement to Pitts as his successor but Tillett was able to beat his rival despite that fact that the Albert Constituency has since the early 1950's been Goldson stronghold.

Goldson has never lost an election.

Costa Rica

Nicaraguan Helicopters Land 'By Mistake'

PA1412160288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1458 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Two Sandinist Air Force (FAS) "Mi-17" helicopter gunships landed in Costa Rican territory "by mistake" and later returned to their country, Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron reported today.

The minister said the police warned the Nicaraguan pilots that they were violating Costa Rican territory, when they slightly damaged a small commercial establishment. They admitted they had arrived there by mistake, apologized, and immediately returned to their country.

The two helicopters were participating in a joint operation with the Costa Rican police on 5 December in Upala, on the border of the two countries, searching for marijuana plantations in accordance with an agreement signed by the two governments on 24 November.

This police action in its first stage ended Friday, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Ministry.

Government Releases Nov Inflation Figures

PA1312223788 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
8 Dec 88 p 4-A

[Report by Armando Mayorga]

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Antonio Burgues Teran reported that the November consumer inflation index rose 2 percent, making the 1988 accumulated rate 20.5 percent.

By the end of the year, the government expects the rise in cost of living "not to exceed 22 to 23 percent," the official said, adding that for 1989 steps will be taken to hold the figure below 12 percent.

President Dr Oscar Arias warned yesterday, at a special government council session in Heredia, that "at present, inflation is our main concern and we are going to keep it from getting out of hand. We are trying to reduce it substantially next year, without affecting development." [passage omitted]

World Bank, Japan To Lend $100 Million Each

PA1412161588 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Summary] The World Bank has approved the second stage of the structural adjustment program for Costa Rica, which involves $100 million. The Japanese Government will contribute another $100 million, Costa Rican Planning Minister Jorge Monge has reported.

He also said both the World Bank and Japan will deliver the loans in three installments. The first, a $40-million disbursement by the World Bank, will be made as soon as the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly approves the agreement. The second, for $35 million, will be made in June. The third, for $25 million, will be made in December 1989.

Monge said Japan's disbursements will be similar to and occur about the same time as those of the World Bank.

El Salvador

ARENA Denies Killing PDC Official

PA1512023688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] This afternoon, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] rejected charges made against that party regarding last night's murder of an electoral official in Soyapango.

Alfredo Cristiani said that the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] wants to politicize the case, and ARENA has therefore asked judicial authorities to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of the crime.

ARENA leaders demanded a thorough investigation concerning Francisco Bonilla's death and severely criticized PDC presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena.

At a news conference, Freddy Cristiani denied any involvement by Soyapango's mayor in this crime. He added that the PDC has politicized the case in an attempt to divert the public's attention from the irregularities taking place at the Central Electoral Council.

In addition, he said, ARENA has committed itself to cooperating with the authorities during the investigation conducted by judicial and police authorities. He rejected the charges made by Fidel Chavez Mena, who, according to ARENA, insists on accusing ARENA without listening to those involved or proving their case in court.

[Begin Cristiani recording, in progress] ...since spokesmen of that party have made the mayor of Soyapango responsible for this action, we have demanded a thorough investigation of the incident so that the perpetrator of this crime can answer for his actions before the legal authorities. We believe that the judicial authorities are responsible for conducting the investigation and condemning those who committed the crime.

ARENA's own internal investigation, which has been conducted to give us the moral right to deny the participation of ARENA's mayor in this incident, has produced no evidence linking him with the death of Francisco Eduardo Bonilla Campos.

ARENA regrets and condemns the irresponsible attitude of PDC candidate Fidel Chavez Mena, who is trying to politicize the case by acting as judge and accusing persons who have not been heard or found guilty in a trial; this contravenes the conduct he should observe as a professional lawyer. [end recording]

This incident has alarmed the public because now, less than 4 months before the elections, in addition to mutual accusations of fraud between the PDC and ARENA the electoral process has been marred by the murder of a PDC member.

Meanwhile, ARENA has announced that on Thursday it will present to the Central Electoral Council irrefutable evidence of irregularities carried out by the PDC in the electoral registry, and it has invited the other political parties to be present to confirm the fraud reported by ARENA.

Now that ARENA apparently is willing to accept responsibility—if found guilty—for the death of the PDC member, the case is in the hands of our weak judicial system, where these investigations drag on and are not usually concluded in a satisfactory manner.

Mayor Resigns After FMLN Death Threats

PA1512020588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2119 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—It was officially announced today that Mayor Hector Arevalo of the ruling Christian Democratic Party [PDC], who was elected mayor in a town in San Vicente Department last March, resigned because of death threats from Salvadoran guerrillas.

Arevalo is the first mayor to resign as a result of FMLN threats. The FMLN claims mayors are part of the counterinsurgency plan conducted by the Salvadoran Army.

Arevalo, 39, was reportedly threatened with death by the guerrillas, who also ordered him to leave the town of Santa Clara, 65 km east of San Salvador.

After announcing his resignation, Arevalo said: "I want to live and to feel untainted. I do not want to have enemies. I have a wife and children who need me." Arevalo said, however, that he cannot leave Santa Clara, a town of approximately 10,000 people, because he cannot afford to do so.

The FMLN also claims that in many towns in northern and eastern El Salvador, an area over which it claims to have more control than the Army, there are two power centers: One is the guerrilla movement, and the other is the government. The FMLN has stated that it will not allow the government to control that region.

Thus far this year, the FMLN has killed eight PDC and rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance mayors in Santa Ana, Morazan, San Miguel, and Usulutan Departments.

The Catholic Church and the Salvadoran political parties have condemned the murder of these government officials.

Rosa Chavez Stresses Need for Dialogue

PA1412141488 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Catholic Church has reiterated that peace will be achieved only through dialogue and negotiation and has demanded that a cease-fire be observed over the holidays. The Catholic Church today asked that the peacemaking efforts be increased within the framework of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It stressed that human rights are not really being respected in this country.

At the conclusion of his Sunday homily, Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez said the murder of former Lolotique Mayor Francisco Israel Diaz by the guerrillas clearly proves that human rights are not respected in El Salvador. Msgr Rosa Chavez, who described the current conflict as a crazy war, said that 41 persons had been killed last week while 7 more were killed this week. The Catholic bishop stressed that in light of the situation, an immediate dialogue between the conflicting parties has become necessary. However, he is not very hopeful this will occur.

[Rosa Chavez] "I believe the path toward dialogue will continue to be blocked until a new government takes office. Everyone is just waiting to see what happens. However, it is important that the country's new leaders be aware that peace will never be achieved without change. Peace will have to undergo a process of dialogue, a dialogue of a special nature."

Concerning a truce between the Army and the FMLN, Msgr Rosa Chavez recalled that some people use this type of agreement to serve their own interests, while others use it as propaganda. Defense Minister Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova recently said that the Armed Forces will not stop its offensives.

[Rosa Chavez] "I feel a truce is something that can be used either to promote peace or as a political weapon. We see a truce as something that can lead us to peace, but we have to admit that it is something that can be manipulated for political purposes. Perhaps the military commanders [words indistinct]."

In conclusion, Rosa Chavez criticized the recent confrontations among the politicians. As election day draws nearer, politicians seem to get more involved in attacking and counterattacking each other. This is not good for the 1.5 million Salvadoran voters.

FMLN Actions in Usulutan, San Salvador Cited

PA1412194588 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 14 December broadcasts a report on several FMLN actions. The report first notes that "at 1700 on 12 December, the FMLN stopped 7 trucks carrying coffee in Usulutan" and that "1,160 sacks of coffee were distributed to the people. The trucks were then set on fire."

The report also says that "urban commandos sabotaged five transformers in the center and outskirts of San Salvador at 1820 on 2 December. In addition, a CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] pickup was sabotaged in Usulutan."

"Propaganda was distributed at Las Quebradas and Las Crucitas in Morazan; San Rafael, San Diego, Dos Quebradas, and Ochichilco in San Vicente; and several cantons in La Paz Department. Propaganda was also distributed in several Jucuapa, Usulutan neighborhoods and near the Technological University and a bus terminal in San Salvador."

In conclusion, the station reports that the rebels "inflicted 14 casualties on the enemy at several places in the country."

Honduras

Sandinist Army Border Attacks Protested

PA1512045788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0348 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Honduran Government today sent a strong protest to Nicaragua for "three attacks" by the Sandinist Army against Honduran military positions along the common border.

Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, in a note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, said that the first attack occurred in the sector of Walpatanta, in the Honduran Mosquitia, where a patrol of two soldiers and two civilians was attacked with grenades and rifle fire for 10 minutes on 7 December.

The second attack occurred on the same day "with the participation of approximately 24 Sandinist soldiers, who used rifle fire and grenades against the military detachment in Pranza," also in the Honduran Mosquitia.

According to the note, the Nicaraguan Army harassed the military post of Teotecacinte, Paraiso Department, on 11 December.

Lopez Contreras said in his note that these actions "violate the norms of international law and seem to indicate that the Sandinist Army is looking for another front on which to carry out its provocations."

This attitude does "not in any way contribute to lower tension along the border, which would help create a favorable atmosphere for the next meeting of the Central American presidents," Lopez Contreras concluded.

Nicaragua

Ramirez: 'Positive Relations' With U.S. Wanted

PA1412212488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez agreed in Buenos Aires today that the Group of the Eight must continue supporting the Central American peace process.

In statements to reporters after his meeting with President Alfonsin at the Olivos Presidential Residence, Ramirez stressed that his country has placed its hopes in the Esquipulas agreement, which was signed by the Central American presidents to attain peace in the area.

Vice President Ramirez added that his country hopes the change in the U.S. Administration will at least mean the opportunity for a direct dialogue between Nicaragua and the United States to discuss our disagreements. We must talk before attacking each other.

Ramirez, who confirmed his support for the process of consolidation of Argentine democracy, also said Nicaragua wants to have permanent relations with the United States. He said: We want positive relations, since we do not think Nicaragua's destiny lies in antagonizing a superpower.

Contra Attacks Reported in 5th Region

4 Casualties at Cooperative

PA1412171088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Dec 88 p 2

[Report By T. Rotschuh]

[Text] Juigalpa—A child was killed and three persons wounded last Sunday by a group of counterrevolutionaries who attacked the "Cuatro Esquinas" Cooperative, located 5 km northwest of La Esperanza Port in the 5th Region.

The region's EPS Public Relations Office reported that a group of 40 contras attacked the peasant cooperative at 0400 Sunday as the families slept. The cowardly attack was repelled by self-defense groups.

The criminals vented their fury on Katia Granados, 11. Two elderly people, Nicolas Ortega and Tomas Bermudez, aged 60 and 70, respectively, were wounded, along with Samuel Almanza, 20.

Shortly after this cooperative was damaged by Hurricane "Joan," it is now the target of attacks by the terrorist mercenaries, who broke into the peasants' homes in trying to destroy this socioeconomic project.

Another of the offensive actions that openly violates the cease-fire occurred last Saturday when a contra group attacked EPS positions in La Tigra, north of La Batea, where a military man was killed.

The EPS in the 5th Region denounced the criminality of the Reagan administration mercenaries who, with their aggressive actions, continue to massacre the civilian population.

Truck Ambushed; 2 Wounded

PA1412154688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Dec 88 p 5

[Text] One person was killed and another wounded when counterrevolutionaries ambushed a PROAGRO [National Agricultural and Livestock Products Enterprise] truck traveling from San Carlos to Juigalpa in the 5th Region.

The EPS Public Relations Office in the region reported that in the mercenary ambush, which occurred at 1800, Felix Pedro Urbina Calero of Managua and Juan Umana Estrada of San Carlos were wounded. The driver of the truck, which was transporting farm materials, escaped the attack unharmed.

The PROAGRO truck, license plate OQ-0096, was ambushed 24 km southeast of Acoyapa and was virtually destroyed by RPG-7 rocket fire and rifle fire.

This is a new terrorist action by the counterrevolutionary bands who constantly violate the cease-fire decreed by the revolutionary government, the military officer of the region noted.

Panama

Columnist Analyzes Recent Bases Statement

PA1412141888 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 4

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince: "The Pirate Command"]

[Text] When the USSR announced the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, the United States responded by sending to Panama assault troops ready for an invasion, thereby violating all international agreements, distancing itself from Gorbachev's policy of peace, and ignoring the terms of the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the withdrawal of troops from Panamanian territory.

Last week, when the USSR announced through Premier Gorbachev that it would withdraw half a million Russian soldiers from the European front, the United States simultaneously announced that the Southern Command will continue to be a unified regional force with the same responsibilities it has always had.

These two actions in the U.S. warmongering policy, which are in contrast to the Russian policy, highlight Panama's position within the U.S. war strategy. The isthmus has become one of the Pentagon's beachheads for the military control of the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The Southern Command's statement is irrefutable proof [prueba de la mejor excepcion] of the violation of the canal treaties. There is no need to seek evidence of greater legal value, because this statement generates an entire chain of problems related to contractual law and its implications for states that sign treaties with the United States.

Washington has been alleging that its policy responds to national security interests, such as the military protection of the hemisphere from communist infiltration. But the rapprochement and activities between the United States and Russia and the Soviet policy changes dissipate any shadow of danger, because the Russians have complete access to the White House and vice versa.

The Southern Command's communique clarifies future U.S. policy toward Panama and Latin America within the framework of the detente with Russia. Logically, that policy has been approved by incoming President Bush. Otherwise, this would be an indication that the Pentagon is using the Southern Command to beef up the budgets that have been submitted for discussion, thus giving precedence to the interests of groups that are always pressuring for more money. Latin America now has a document that outlines precisely what the Southern Command represents for Latin American freedom of action. A caravel in full sail is the pirate insignia of these troops. Why would that be?

Roundup of Reaction to SOUTHCOM Document

PA1412185388 [Editorial Report] Following the 8 December release of the U.S. Southern Command document entitled "Preliminary Plan Approved for Phased Withdrawal of U.S. Military Presence From Panama in 1999," Panamanian media have been observed to carry the following reaction as of 13 December:

Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 9 December carries a 3-minute report citing the "communique" issued by the U.S. Southern Command but offers no comment.

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on the front page of its 10 December issue carries a 150-word DPA report on the U.S. Southern Command announcement entitled: "To Start Complying With the Treaties? SOUTHCOM Announces Plan To Withdraw Troops...Preliminary Department of Defense Action." The DPA report also carries no comment from Panamanian sources.

On 12 December, Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish on page 5, under the column entitled "Controversy," carries an article by Jose Montano on Panama's current situation. In the article, Montano writes: "It seems the United States has started its military withdrawal from Panama apparently convinced it has wasted its time and tarnished its international military image. Its 'recognition' game and interventionist maneuvers continue to block the path of the Panamanian people."

As for Panamanian regime reaction, Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 12 December carries a 10-minute interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, during which he referred to the current political situation. In response to a question on the U.S. Southern Command remaining in Panama after the year 2000, Noriega said: "Well, what can we do? [laughter] That is a generational matter. It is a matter that is up to the time, space, and generation that has to deal with it." Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 12 December, Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 13 December, and Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 13 December carried the same interview with Gen Noriega.

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0204 GMT on 13 December carries a report, datelined Panama City, on remarks by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, on the U.S. Southern Command's 8 December announcement. Solis Palma is quoted as saying that "it seems like a positive step" but a step that must be "analyzed very closely before voicing a final opinion on it." The ACAN report also carries remarks by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, who says there is a contradiction in "loudly announcing" U.S. compliance with the canal treaties "while violating them in practice." Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 13 December, Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish on 13 December on pages 2 and 6, and Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 13 December on its front page carry similar reports on the remarks by Solis Palma and Ritter.

Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1645 GMT on 13 December carries a report on statements by Panamanian legislator Pedro Brin Martinez. Brin Martinez describes the U.S. Southern Command's communique as "proof of U.S. arrogance and President Reagan's desperate attempt—during his last days in office—to confuse the world by saying the United States is preparing to leave the canal area and dismantle its military bases in Panama." Brin Martinez also says the communique is "just another attempt to destabilize the

Panamanian Government and install a puppet government that will renegotiate the treaties and allow the United States to keep its military bases in Panama after the year 2000." The Panamanian legislator added that "in its communique, the United States says that the U.S. Southern Command will not disappear, once again reaffirming its interventionist and expansionist purpose in the region for the next century."

Also on 13 December, Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on pages 1 and 6 carries a 350-word article by Reinaldo Labastide on the U.S. Southern Command's announcement of a "plan to dismantle U.S. bases in Panama, as stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter treaties." In his article, Labastide quotes Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, who said "as a principle, I do not like to assess attitudes in advance, even if the United States does have a previous history of violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties," adding "but I do hope that the intentions expressed in the Southern Command's communique are indeed fulfilled." Similar reports were also carried by Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 13 December and Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 13 December.

In conclusion, on 14 December Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish on page 4 carries the "Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince. In this column, entitled "The Pirate Command," Lince writes that "the isthmus has become one of the Pentagon's beachheads for the military control of the Caribbean and Central and South America." The column goes on to say: "The Southern Command's statement is irrefutable proof of the violation of the canal treaties. There is no need to seek evidence of greater legal value, because this statement generates an entire chain of problems related to contractual law and its implications for states that sign treaties with the United States."

Commentary Denounces U.S. Move on 'Arafat Visa
PA1412234288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Station commentary: "Setting the Course"]

[Text] The UN decision to transfer its discussions on the Palestine issue to Geneva, because the United States refused to issue a visa to Arab leader Yasir 'Arafat, confirms that the time has come to seriously think about whether the UN headquarters should remain on U.S. territory.

The establishment of the UN headquarters in the United States has always entailed a certain amount of U.S. control over UN actions. That is a violation of the UN Charter and of principles connected with international law and relations among states.

Such arbitrary behavior is based on U.S. arrogance, and it forces UN members to pay a high price for having the UN headquarters in New York. Based on international agreements, the headquarters of organizations such as the United Nations are protected by a neutrality clause, whose first guarantor should be the host country. In other words, the host country must forget about its personal positions and support the consensus of the countries that invoke and seek protection in that neutrality.

The principle of neutrality must get the utmost respect in matters connected with the United Nations, because it is the forum that gathers the largest number of countries. That has not been the case, because the U.S. perception of the world continues to be as narrow as it was before the two world wars. That conception of the world neither accepts nor tolerates disagreements in form or substance with U.S. views on the way international relations should develop. Washington simply cannot accept the fact that the world will continue changing—not thanks to the United States, but despite it.

Regardless of one's opinion about the Palestinian cause, no one would now disagree that the solitary, irrational, and obstinate U.S. attitude will only increase solidarity for that cause.

By denying a U.S. visa to Yasir 'Arafat, the United States not only endangers UN regular operations, but it also works against a detente in the Middle East which could come from a UN discussion with the participation of one of the main protagonists in the conflict. The U.S. action is even more worrisome because the U.S. attitude arrogantly goes against a decision made by most of the UN member countries.

Transferring the debates to Geneva clearly tells the United States that the world claims the right to seek peaceful and conciliatory solutions regardless of U.S. Government's thick-skulled policies.

The most important issue, however, continues to be the core of the matter. Will it be suitable for world interests, world peace, detente, and international understanding for the United Nations to continue operating under the ominous U.S. trusteeship? Has the time come for the international community to consider other lands to stop the U.S. political blindness from suffocating possibilities to reach understandings through reason and tolerance?

Nothing confirms the contradictions of the U.S. policy more clearly than its supposed willingness to sincerely negotiate with the Soviet Union and its intransigence in facilitating the discussions on the Palestine issue under the auspices of the United Nations.

In addition, Washington is making the dangerous mistake of transferring its own views about regional problems to world spheres, instead of contributing to international detente and the solution of problems.

Now in Geneva the civilized world is listening to Yasir 'Arafat. The world has an opportunity to discuss matters with him. Meanwhile, the United States is irrational, deaf, and practically isolated, and it continues ignoring the passage of time and the progress made by those who make and record history.

Noriega, Solis Palma To Attend PRD Congress

PA1412142988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 4-A

["Names and Events" column]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] led by Carlos Duque will hold its congress on 16 December at the New Panama Gymnasium. According to party Secretary General Darinel Espino, 3,000 delegates will attend. The congress' purpose is to reform the statutes and reorganize the cadre of leaders for the 1989 elections. President Solis Palma and General Noriega will be guests of honor.

PPR Leader Favors Noriega 'Civilian' Candidacy

PA1512024488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2344 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Report on news conference given by Revolutionary Panamenist Party President Luis Gaspar "Toty" Suarez on 14 December; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Luis Gaspar Suarez, president of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR], held a news conference at noon today to announce a possible alliance among pro-government parties and to demand his inclusion in the presidential slate as first or second vice president of the Republic. Suarez also referred to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's possible candidacy and to the invitation he received from Hildebrando Nicosia to attend the recent national convention of the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] held in Anton. This is his statement:

[Suarez] "We are going to hold talks, but we will not go blindfolded. Our party, the party's National Executive Council, and our national directors insist on nominating me as presidential candidate. However, this is not an inflexible position and I will make the final decision, as I am the presidential candidate.

"We will sit down and talk. Since we are willing to talk, we demand, we demand [repeats himself] a position in the presidential slate, which could be as first or second vice president. Why? Because after the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the PALA [Labor Party], the Revolutionary Panamenist Party is entitled to be considered the third force in the National Democratic Union."

Asked about Gen Noriega's presidential candidacy, Suarez said: [in progress] "...that I would support Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega's candidacy; that I would immediately give up our party's position if he enters civilian life and accepts a presidential nomination. Logically, Gen Noriega comes from a long line of Indo-American military men who have emerged from the heart of the people—a native from the coastal area; a poor man raised near the market. [laughs] He belongs to that lineage of military men who now think about their people in a different way from the gorillas [gorilas] of the past, who defended oligarchy and imperialism and were their pawns." Regarding a possible alliance with the PPA faction headed by Hildebrando Nicosia, Suarez said:

"Our doors are open. On Sunday we sent a high-level delegation of seven party members to the Anton convention. We were kindly invited by Emilio Royo Linares, who was elected sergeant-at-arms of his party's National Directorate. Therefore, our doors are open, and we are willing to sit down and talk with the PPA."

Columnist on PPA Split, Political Scenarios

PA1412131988 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Dec 88 p 4

[Mario Augusto Rodriguez' column: "A Partisan Third Force"]

[Text] In addition to, and apparently unconnected to, pressure by some Labor Party leaders, new threats to the prevailing political currents in our national scenario have appeared. I am talking about the parties that in 1984 were members of the opposition alliance. Within each of these two coalitions [UNADE, National Democratic Union, and ADO, Democratic Opposition Alliance], which received almost the same number of votes in the last election, there are disagreements that in some instances have even became threats of separation and, consequently, formation of a third partisan force. In 1984 there were independent parties with their own candidates. Most of them disappeared. Some of the parties that were part of the big alliances in 1984 now show independent tendencies.

In my opinion, the most dramatic situation involves the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA]. Neither of the two PPA factions, which are battling for power over Arnulfo Arias' party, have expressed a desire to form a third political force. By this I mean in the sense of withdrawing from ADO to follow another direction. The truth is that if the PPA formally splits into two forces, those forces could hardly be part of the same opposition alliance. It is possible that one of the two factions would seek an alliance with UNADE, the Torrijist current. The most likely scenario is that if one of the factions continues as part of ADO, which the PPA itself headed in 1984, the other will seek an independent position or form a "third force," either with parties that now act independently or with others that split from the two big alliances.

Those who have more directly presented the idea of separating from UNADE have been Arnulfo's original disciples. I am talking about the Revolutionary Panamenist Party headed by Toty Suarez. In fact, that party has already nominated Suarez as its presidential candidate for the May 1989 elections. Obviously, that nomination—not yet legalized—can very well be a strategy to be on more favorable grounds in the event of a multiparty negotiation. That strategy entails the possibility that the Revolutionary Panamenist Party will separate from UNADE to join independent parties and form a third political force. Although in a political party system two plus two is not necessarily four, the root of the problem is that the Revolutionary Panamenist Party could join either of the two PPA factions.

If parties separate from the two alliances that contended for power in the 1984 elections and if those parties form a third force, we would undoubtedly have a very different electoral panorama from the one in 1984. We must recall that the official difference between ADO and UNADE was fewer than 2,000 votes in 1984. For that reason, any small party could become a decisive factor in the upcoming elections. If many and more important parties form a third force, the differences between these elections and the ones in 1984 could be even more significant. The topic is open to debate and is ripe for speculation, so it is worth waiting for a better opportunity to discuss it.

Today's thought:

To say "politics" is to say the science of everything that is changeable, relative, and unpredictable. It is a science whose practical conclusions are subject to time, people, and the moment its art is applied.

By Canovas.

Republican Party Group Challenges Changes

PA1412223788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] National directors and members of the Republican Party's Political Committee empowered attorney Oscar Ucros to bring suit before the Electoral Tribunal to challenge the minutes and resolutions used to change the party's Board of Directors at a meeting chaired by Eric Arturo Delvalle.

According to a communique issued by the Republican Party's Political Committee, a minority within the party is acting unlawfully and against party statutes in an attempt to legalize what is clearly an illegal act.

The communique also states that on 17 September 1988, a large majority, consisting of 44 of the Republican Party's 61 national directors, elected a general secretary, and on 22 September, 43 of the 61 national directors approved the party's Board of Directors at a meeting chaired by Eric Arturo Delvalle.

U.S. Congressmen Reportedly Meet Opposition

PA1412145288 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 13 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] Four U.S. congressmen met here last night with representatives from the opposition political parties, according to a a businessman with close ties to the National Civic Crusade.

The purpose of the meeting, which took place somewhere in the capital city, was to find out what is happening in our country and whether or not the democratic opposition will participate in the next elections.

MEDIODIA also learned that the U.S. congressmen will meet today with the leadership of the Civic Crusade. So far, the purpose of the meeting is unknown; however, it is thought that the meeting has political undertones that could affect this opposition movement's future actions.

Likewise, it is not known whether the parliamentarians from the colossus of the North have had contacts with representatives of the Panamanian Government.

Report Says U.S. Owes Panama $175 Million

PA1412145788 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 13 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] A report prepared by the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry says the U.S. Government owes the Panamanian Government $175 million in taxes, fees for public utilities, social security deductions, and dues relating to the Panama Canal.

The report was presented to a group of visiting Latin American parliamentarians to illustrate the hardships that U.S. economic sanctions have caused our country.

The ministry's report estimates that unemployment has reached 20 percent and foresees an additional increase of 5 percent during the coming months.

The report also forecasts a 20-percent drop in the Gross National Product (GNP) in 1988 while anticipating an 8-percent fall in GNP in 1989.

The ministry's statistics indicate that "the total volume of economic activity is regressing to 1978's level despite a 20-percent increase in population."

Argentina

Nicaragua's Ramirez: 'Direct Dialogue' With Bush

PY1412145488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1356 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez stated today that his country hopes to achieve a "direct dialogue" with U.S. President-elect George Bush to try to overcome the Central American crisis. He also ratified his support for the "process of consolidating democracy" in Argentina.

Ramirez made these remarks to the press at the Olivos presidential residence where he met for ½ hour with President Raul Alfonsin.

Referring to the Argentine president's performance, he said that "it is an example to be followed for the consolidation of democracy in Latin America." He added that this process "is essential for the achievement of peace and development in the region."

Referring to the recent military crisis, Ramirez stated that "Nicaragua expressed support for the defense of the Argentine democracy whenever necessary."

Regarding future relations with the United States, after Bush's inauguration next year, he said that he hopes for "a direct dialogue to discuss the current differences, and not to go on with this policy of attacking us first and talk afterwards."

He added that Nicaragua's objective is to "maintain permanent positive relations with the United States."

He said: "We do not believe that Nicaragua's fate will be that of a continuous confrontation with a superpower, and therefore, we hope that our relations will be normalized."

Present at the meeting with Alfonsin were Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerruti, and Nicaraguan Ambassador to Argentina Ariel Granero Sacaza.

Further on Caputo Meeting With UK Envoy

PY1412184388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1817 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Today Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo met with the UK Ambassador to the United Nations Crispin Tickell in Geneva to discuss issues of "common interest," including those related to the UN General Assembly.

Minister Counselor Guillermo McGough relayed this information from Geneva and added that Caputo met with Tickell in his capacity as president of the UN General Assembly.

This official information, which the Argentine Foreign Ministry official released in Buenos Aires, did not specify whether Caputo and Tickell discussed the Malvinas issue, as has been repeatedly stated in news media reports ever since the possibility of this meeting was leaked.

However, diplomatic sources have indicated that the southern Atlantic archipelago problem was "most probably" one of the issues discussed during the meeting.

Army Continues Reshuffling Military Chiefs

PY1412170188 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Dec 88 p 1, 20

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—The Army yesterday continued its internal restructuring by appointing new military chiefs at several strategic units, while military sources speculated on the possible retirement of outgoing First Tank Brigade Commander General Isidro Caceres.

Caceres, who will today replace General Juan Mabragana as commander of the II Army Corps following his "crucial" participation in the resolution of the recent military crisis, said he was willing to accept "resignations" in order to contribute to "pacification within the Army."

Nevertheless, he denied having heard rumors about his own retirement.

The military chief yesterday handed over command of the First Tank Brigade in Tandil to Colonel Maximo Rosendo Groba, whose promotion is recommended for the end of this year.

Caceres said he was happy to have been appointed to the new post "in a democracy." He is thought to have been one of the "conditions" presented by rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin for laying down arms.

Mabragana, who was in charge of crushing the uprising led by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico in Monte Caseros last January, tacitly admitted that the most recent uprising was overcome through an agreement reached by Seineldin and Army Chief of Staff Jose Caridi.

He nevertheless stressed that "it was not a questin of pressure, as is suggested by some press reports," but rather that "it was a conversation between the loyalist chief and the rebel," explaining that Seineldin "thought things over and realized he could achieve his aims without bloodshed."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena will be questioned by the Lower House in a public session next week in answer to a request filed by the Peronist bloc. [passage omitted]

Atucha Manager Explains Reasons for Shutdown

PY1412172488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0747 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)—General Juan Carlos Duarte, the Atucha nuclear plant manager, has explained that the problem that has kept the plant out of operation for 4 months was caused by a broken welded seam of a probe inside the reactor. A remote-controlled robot is needed in order to repair this. He added that no enterprise has ever manufactured this type of robot before.

In an interview published in today's issue of the morning newspaper PAGINA 12, Duarte said that several enterprises have been invited to supply the equipment. He added that all of them answered that they were capable of manufacturing the equipment. Not one voiced assurances about the project, and they all demanded advanced payments.

He said that a group of Argentine companies has been contracted at an approximate cost of $3 million to supply a remote-controlled robot that will help begin the preparatory work.

Bank President To Seek Accord With IMF

PY1412150088 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Dec 88 p 19

[Text] Central Bank president Jose Luis Machinea will leave for the United States today. He will try to conclude a new accord with the IMF after a long delay caused by the objections which the multilateral agency has raised in connection with the Argentine fiscal plan.

Machinea, who will meet in Washington with Argentine financial representative to the United States, Daniel Marx, believes that the fiscal reform proposed by the Secretariat of Finance will improve the collection of tax revenues, and that it will provide the funds that are essential for controlling the fiscal deficit and the deficit of state-owned companies (currently the most important source of concern).

However, Machinea will not be able to assure the IMF that the reform will be implemented in the short term, because the government must first obtain Justicialist Party support for the reform in Congress.

Even though the World Bank and the U.S. Treasury extended decisive support to Minister Juan Sourrouille's team during the last annual IMF and World Bank meeting in Berlin, the IMF and the creditor banks have questioned the performance of the adjustment program that is known as the Spring Plan.

Machinea is also expected to meet creditor bank representatives in New York. As part of their pressure strategy, creditors have been reluctant to grant the "fresh funds" requested by Argentina to close the balance of payments in 1988 and 1989.

The strategy of the club, which is led by the Citibank, seeks to obtain several concessions from Argentina, especially as it refers to the capitalization of the debt, "onlendings" [preceding word in English], and other business deals which can be closed with the bonds that debtors have issued over the past few years and which creditors do not want.

An accord with the IMF will strengthen the Spring Plan at a time when the sectors that are participating in the plan, like the Industrial Union, are considering whether they will continue to support the plan.

Brazil

Soviet Radar Purchased for Hail Detection

PY1412113088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Soviet-made radar will be installed in Santa Catarina State to detect and destroy hail, as well as to predict weather conditions.

Special arrangements are being made to transport the equipment, which is scheduled to arrive this week at Santos Port.

The radar will arrive aboard a Soviet ship. The rest of the equipment, which weighs 58 tons, will arrive aboard a second ship that is scheduled to arrive next week.

The unique Soviet radar, along with nine launch pads for antihail rockets [foguetes anti-granizo], will be installed in Lebon Regis, 440 km west of Florianopolis. It has been purchased by the Santa Catarina Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise [Empresa de Pesquisa Agropecuaria de Santa Catarina] (EMPASC), which is associated to the EMBRAPA [Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise], and by a pool [preceding word in English] of businessmen for $1.7 million.

During its operation, the radar will detect hail and eliminate it within a 100-km radius. Within a larger 300-km radius, and in connection with a much less sophisticated radar installed in the interior of Sao Paulo State, the Soviet-made radar will help to predict rain and other weather conditions in the three southern states as well as in Sao Paulo State.

The Army Ministry, the Aeronautics Ministry, the Science and Technology Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the INPE [National Institute of Space Research] all support the purchase of the equipment, according to EMPASC technician Sergio Sales.

Cocaine Seized in Belem, Traffickers Arrested

PY1512010788 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Summary] Para State Federal Police have seized 110 kg of cocaine in Belem. According to the federal police, the cocaine came from Manaus aboard a ship and was scheduled to leave for Miami, passing through Suriname. Four people were arrested.

Chile

Pinochet Receives U.S. Ambassador's Credentials

PY1512023988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Diplomats have a very important mission: to provide their countries with objective reports on the situation prevailing in the countries to which they are accredited, thus helping to strengthen relations. President Pinochet made this remark today upon receiving the credentials of the new U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Charles Gillespie.

During the ceremony held at La Moneda Palace, Pinochet said that he hoped that this was indeed the basic objective of the mission on the new U.S. ambassador.

Pinochet added: we understand and appreciate the interest that the United States displays in the Chilean situation, as long as there is absolute respect for national sovereignty.

He stressed that defense of national sovereignty is one of the key aspects to our way of life.

The new U.S. ambassador in Chile spoke about Chile's economic development based on free enterprise. He stressed that the United States, as well as the rest of the international community, was impressed to the extent with which the citizenry participated in the recent plebiscite. The praiseworthy development of the plebiscite and the open acknowledgement of the results are examples worthy of being followed by any country in the world, said Ambassador Charles Gillespie.

Several Bomb Explosions Reported in Santiago

PY1412143088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 Dec 88

[From Mobile Unit No 03 by Oscar Benito Rebolledo]

[Summary from poor reception] At least three people were slightly injured last night as a result of several bomb explosions in different neighborhoods in Santiago. Diego Romo Zuniga, 40 years old, was injured in the leg, while Roberto Antonio Castro suffered some cuts on his right arm by broken glass and shrapnel that resulted from a bomb explosion on the corner of 10 de Julio and San Diego Streets.

Other bomb explosions were recorded last night in different neighborhoods. One explosion damaged an electricity pole while another bomb exploded at a soccer field on Guillermo Zaavedra Street. Carabineros are investigating these attacks.

At 345 Coquimbo Street, terrorists poured gasoline on the facade of a warehouse in an attempt to set it on fire. Fortunately a police patrol that was passing by, prevented the terrorists from completing their attack.

Bomb Near La Moneda Palace

PY1512023788 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0216 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 14 Dec (AFP)—According to police sources, a powerful explosion took place tonight in Santiago only some 50 meters from the presidential La Moneda Palace. The report states that some people were wounded and had to be evacuated from the site.

A Carabinero officer told AFP that several people were wounded. At the same time, the area was being cordoned off to allow policemen and members of the security forces to search for other possible bombs.

The powerful bomb went off on Valentin Letelier Street, on the side of the Education Ministry building in downtown Santiago.

The attack, which has still not been claimed by any organization, coincides with the 5th anniversary of the clandestine and leftist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front that upholds all forms of struggle against the government of General Augusto Pinochet.

Bomb Near Education Building

PY1512025988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0241 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Five people were wounded by a bomb explosion planted by terrorists near the Education Ministry building in Santiago.

According to a police report, the wounded people live in an apartment building located on 20 Valentin Letelier Street. They have been evacuated to the central aid center to receive medical assistance due to the wounds inflicted by glass splinters. Apparently their wounds are not serious.

This terrorist attack is part of the wave of extremist actions perpetrated tonight in various areas of the metropolitan region.

The terrorists perpetrated bomb attacks in various sectors of Santiago, especially by planting bombs at the foot of lampposts.

It has been reported that bomb attacks and power cuts affected the power supply in Lan Condes, San Miguel, Renca, Maipu, Conchali, and La Cisterna.

It was also reported that some neighborhoods of Valparaiso were affected by blackouts.

No problems were registered in northern Chile, but in the south it was reported that electric power was reduced in [name indistinct], Concepcion, and Puerto Montt.

Extremists Seize Radio Station, Read Communique

PY1412181288 Santiago Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Extremists of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] this morning seized Radio Panamericana in San Miguel neighborhood. The subversives, two men and a woman, carrying a submachinegun and pistols, threatened radio operator Antonio Godocheo, and managed to broadcast a proclamation recorded on a casette.

The transmission lasted 5 minutes. The extremists checked the transmission on a portable radio. Executive members of the radio station, located at Bus stop No 14 on O'Higgins Avenue, reported that the extremists cut telephone lines and alarm bells before fleeing.

World Bank Grants Economic Adjustment Loan

PY1512010988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Summary] The World Bank today announced in Washington the disbursement of $125 million for Chile. This is the second installment of a loan to be used in economic structural adjustments. This installment is the last of the $250-million loan approved in December 1987.

Today in Tokyo, Finance Minister Hernan Buchi signed an agreement with the Japanese Export-Import Bank for the release of a $200-million loan.

Colombia

Army Destroys FARC's 45th Front in Meta

PA1412151988 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Dec 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Report by Luis Carlos Delgado]

[Excerpts] Soldiers from the Arauca Heroes and Vargas Battalions remained silent, waiting for action. They were scared. They knew they would soon engage in battle, but ignored how strong the enemy was. [passage omitted]

Each soldier inspected his equipment: rifle, ammunition, Galil and hand grenades. Everything was ready. Only the officers knew what the operation entailed: The objective was to launch a surprise attack against the 45th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which was based near the Duda River in the Ariari region, Meta Department.

The intelligence work to determine the exact location of the guerrilla camp took 3 months. However, the decision to destroy and wipe out the FARC's 45th Front took just 5 minutes. The 7th Brigade Command made this decision the previous Tuesday, the same night of the attack against Defense Minister General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz.

Operation Duda, as it was called, was scheduled for Saturday, 26 November, at dawn in order to surprise the guerrillas.

Everything went perfectly. Almost perfectly.

When the guerrillas—approximately 50 of them—realized it was a surprise attack, they grabbed their weapons and got ready to defend themselves. However, they did not have enough time to react properly and came out with only their weapons and a few cartridges in their pockets. [passage omitted]

The blow was so effective that all the guerrilla defenses were useless. The lifeless, mutilated bodies of 21 guerrillas lay in the grass, bushes, and ditches. It was estimated that approximately 30 other guerrillas managed to flee to the nearby jungle. The FARC's 45th Front was destroyed and dismantled.

Operation Duda was almost a complete success. Soldier Luis Humberto Espitia, who died in action, was the only one who could not celebrate the victory. [passage omitted]

Soldier Espitia was decorated posthumously, and four officers, eight noncommissioned officers, and eight soldiers received medals for Distinguished Service in Public Order for their participation in the Army's most successful antiguerrilla operation this year.

El Carmen de Atrato Mayor Kidnapped by ELN

PA1412224088 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 9-A

[Text] Government sources have reported that four unidentified civilians carrying large-caliber firearms kidnapped Alberto Celis Sanchez, mayor of El Carmen de Atrato, on 8 December at El Doce on the Quibdo-Medellin highway. The kidnappers handed Humberto Florez Sanchez, the mayor's driver, a document signed by the Ernesto "Che" Guevara Front of the National Liberation Army's Camilist Unity claiming responsibility for the action.

Mayor Celis was unescorted at the time he was kidnapped, and he had failed to notify the police that he was leaving town.

Celis, 42, a businessman and Social Conservative Party member, was elected mayor in June.

The Choco authorities met to consider the situation and report to Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo.

In addition, Sipi Mayor Manuel Santos Cruz Arboleda was seriously wounded by a gunshot to the head in an unexplained incident.

Cruz was rushed to the Eduardo Santos Hospital in Istmina, where doctors were trying to save his life.

Guidelines Set for Peace Talks With Rebels

PA1412124888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Cauca Governor (Rene Mosquera) and Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation, met in Popayan with 30 Cauca mayors to set guidelines for the peace process. It was made clear that no public official can participate in peace talks with guerrillas. This matter is solely within the purview of officials directly appointed by the president. Rafael Pardo Rueda and Cauca Governor (Rene Mosquera) called the majors' attention to this. Here is Adolfo Mejia Leon:

[Begin recording] Another important step toward peace has been taken with the meeting held in Popayan. Rafael Pardo Rueda discussed the late November agreement signed between several majors in southwestern Colombia, Cauca area, and M-19 and FARC guerrillas in La Mesa District, Patia municipality. [Passage omitted]

The Cauca governor reiterated his stance that no public official can sign agreements or pacts with rebels without direct authorization from the president, the government minister, or the presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation. [end recording]

Ecuador

Borja: 'Not Possible To Keep Cuba Isolated'

PA1412220688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1859 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Quito, 14 Dec (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja said today it is not possible to keep Cuba isolated from international forums. He termed the international policy against that socialist country self-deceptive.

Borja made the remarks to local newsmen in Lago Agrio, in Ecuador's eastern Amazon region, to counter opposition charges that he lacks authority.

"One should not confuse good manners with lack of authority," he said. "And I have proved that I can make decisions, which range from inviting (Cuban President) Fidel Castro to Ecuador to renewing diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Borja, who took office on 10 August, invited Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to his inauguration ceremony. Borja and Ortega signed the resumption of bilateral relations, which had been broken in 1985 by Borja's predecessor Leon Febres-Cordero.

The Ecuadorean president repeated that Cuba cannot be kept out of international forums such as the United Nations or the OAS, "because I believe in pluralism and solidarity in the face of specific problems," he noted.

Calls To Suspend Debt Payments Rebuffed

PA1412233288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0534 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Quito, 13 Dec (date as received) (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja criticized those who are asking him to ignore the foreign debt. He warned of the international reprisals such a policy might bring.

The president also said he was trying to find a formula for an agreement with the creditors that would not stop his country's development.

He said: "The international system is merciless. The announcement of the suspension of payments would stop loans, and could lead to an embargo on our oil, banana, or cacao, in any foreign port, at the request of our creditors."

He dismissed the charge of being "subservient and obedient to the IMF" before a group of oil workers. Borja said the IMF formula for the total deregulation of our economy "destroyed our government."

Borja insisted it is one thing to demand that the foreign debt of over $11 billion not be paid, and it is another for "a small country like Ecuador, which is highly dependent on others, to implement the policy of that rhetoric, which is a totally reckless rallying cry."

While asking for alternatives that would counter the impact of the hypothetical nonpayment of the foreign debt, Borja said "that is why leaders of such stature as (Cuban President) Fidel Castro faithfully pay their foreign debt. Small countries would not be able to bear international sabotage indefinitely."

In late November in the United States, Ecuador began to renegotiate its foreign debt after paying the Inter-American Development Bank a pending amount of $25 million. The money was provided by the Venezuelan Government.

The Ecuadoran renegotiating team began its work with the creditors in a first phase, which the government described as "exploratory." However, the team did not propose or accept previous conditions so as to pave the way for a "menu" of alternatives that will be studied in the next few weeks.

However, Finance and Public Credit Minister Jorge Gallardo submitted to the IMF a letter of intent, containing the Borja administration's new economic program and a request for a $156 million contingency loan.

Ecuador hopes to refinance its entire commercial foreign debt (with creditor banks) of $5.5 billion and another $1 billion in unpaid interest. It also hopes to include a clause for instances of natural disaster or the drop in the price of export products (especially oil).

The total amount subject to renegotiation ($6.5 billion) represents 58.91 percent of Ecuador's total foreign debt of $11.034 billion.

Monetary Board President on Nonpayment of Debt
PA1412131188 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Monetary Board President Abelardo Pachano reported on the results of a recent meeting with U.S. creditor banks, saying that Ecuador's proposals were very well received and that negotiations will soon begin. Pachano added that the process of seeking solutions will be a lengthy one, and the outcome will depend on achieving a consensus.

[Begin Pachano recording] First, we want to establish the premise that because our nation's reality makes it impossible for us to tend to the payment of our foreign debt, we are searching for ways to initiate serious and formal conversations with Ecuador's various creditors. The commission representing our country's interests has held conversations with international creditor banks to explain our country's delicate situation. The commission has explained the principles underlying Ecuador's economic policy and the government's perseverance and determination to solve the problems in Ecuadoran society, along with the entire country's determined cooperation. Within this framework of mutual respect and frankness, a negotiation process can begin to achieve a long-term solution that will satisfy mutual interests.

Paraguay

Trade Union Communique on Detained Journalists
PY1412220688 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] Radio Caritas reporter Teresa Godoy was detained yesterday as she was entering the National Congress building to perform routine professional duties. Police Intelligence Service [Servicio de Inteligencia de la Policia] agents forced her to get into a Volkswagen Beetle without providing her with any explanation.

Juanita Carracella, another Radio Caritas reporter, was released last night at about 2100 from the 12th police precinct in Trinidad. Carracella was arrested last Monday as she was entering the Catholic radio station to begin anchoring her program 'On Transit.'

Yesterday afternoon Radio Caritas board members and Monsignor Pastor Cuquejo found out that Godoy had been transferred to the 12th police precinct where all the women arrested are being held.

Concerning Godoy's detention, the Trade Union of Paraguayan Journalists (SPP) has released a communique reporting her detention.

The communique says that "the violent detention of our colleague Teresa Godoy, a Radio Caritas reporter, this morning as she was performing her duties in front of the National Congress, which is supposed to be a 'democratic forum,' is just one more piece of evidence of the open harassment of this radio station by the government, which, in this way, is trying to suffocate one of the few channels through which the people voice their concerns and troubles."

The communique adds that "this new attack on freedom of the press involves a number of constitutional violations. The government has consistently violated these rights through repressive actions by the authorities, actions that have created an atmosphere of anxiety among the journalists and the citizenry in general."

Peru

Government Backs Palestine Self-Determination
PY1412135088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] We will now read official communique No 14-88:

The Foreign Ministry hereby informs the international and the Peruvian public:

1) The Peruvian Government has carefully analyzed the documents issued by the National Palestine Council, which has recently met in Algiers, in connection with the proclamation of an independent Palestine state.

2) The Peruvian Government believes that this meeting will contribute to the efforts that the international community has made to achieve peace in the Middle East, in line with the current auspicious atmosphere of international detente.

3) The Peruvian Government reiterates that, faithful to its principles, it has upheld and it will continue to uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence. It also recognizes the right of Israel, and of all the states of the region, to live within safe and internationally accepted borders.

4) The Peruvian Government wishes to express its satisfaction over the National Palestine Council's decision to adopt—as a legal background of its statement—the historical resolution No 181 of 1947, which established the division of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. At that time this resolution was supported by Peru.

The Peruvian Government also emphasizes the fact that the political statement issued by the meeting of Algiers accepts United Nations Security Council Resolution No 242 and 338, the terms of which were upheld by the Peruvian Government in 1967. They guarantee the territorial integrity and the existence of all the states of the region. The Peruvian Government observes with satisfaction that the National Palestine Council has resorted to peaceful methods of settling controversies and that it has rejected violence and terrorism.

5) The Peruvian Government reiterates that it is convinced that it is necessary to call an international peace conference, in the shortest possible time, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties involved, to find a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Lima, December 1988, the General Directorate of Dissemination of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry.

APRA Mayor Murdered by 'Terrorists'

PY1412213388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1536 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 14 Dec (EFE)—Four alleged terrorists, all wearing ski masks, murdered Mayor Alfredo Chamorro in the small town of Pallanchacra. Chamorro was a member of the governing APRA.

This information was released in Lima today. The attack was perpetrated at dawn on Tuesday, 13 December, when the terrorists burst into the mayor's home. Chamorro had previously received death threats.

Pallanchacra is located some 30 km from Cerro de Pasco, capital of Pasco Department, in central Peru.

Moreover, one of the bodyguards of Hugo Garcia Salvatecci, bank and insurance superintendant, is recovering in a clinic in Lima from an attack by alleged terrorists who shot him as a "warning."

In other events, police have identified the body of a man found last Saturday, 10 December, on kilometer 12 of the South Panamerican Highway. He was apparently shot.

The individual was identified as an alleged member of the Peruvian Communist Party, with entries in police records.

A poster which read "An eye for an eye. For what the Workers Revolutionary Movement [MOR] in Bolivia did," was found on the body.

The authors of the crime were presumably referring to the murder in La Paz, Bolivia, of Peruvian Naval Attache Juan Carlos Vega Llona. The self-styled MOR claimed responsibility for the killing.

Uruguay

Finance Minister Views Joint Debt Talks

PY1412170988 Montevideo Radio Libertad Sport Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Finance Minister Accountant Ricardo Zerbino, upon returning to Uruguay, said that the finance ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay have agreed on the terms for a dialogue with the industrialized countries. They will seek ways to reduce the Latin American foreign debt. The minister made the following remarks on the important meeting that he attended: [Recorded passage indistinct]

Venezuela

Perez Proclaimed President-Elect; Votes Counted

PA1512014188 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2320 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Final vote count document read by Ezequiel Zamora, secretary of the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, from the CSE Session Room in Caracas during a ceremony proclaiming Carlos Andres Perez president-elect, and statement by CSE President Carlos Delgado—live]

[Text] This is the final vote count for the election of the president of the Republic.

In Caracas, on 12 December 1988, the members of the Supreme Electoral Council, headed by CSE President Carlos Delgado Chapellin, held a meeting, with the First and Second Vice Presidents Nerio Raucedo and Eduardo Arrocha respectively, and members Lucas G. Lara, Miguel Gonzalez, Alberto Lopez, Luis Alvarai Dreyer, Amado Cornielles Marcano, and Edencio Gallardo, in attendance.

In accordance with Paragraph No 1 of Article No 140 of the suffrage law and with Paragraph No 21, Article No 45 [word indistinct], the CSE counted the valid votes for the presidential election of the Republic cast in the 4 December 1988 elections. The votes were counted through the electoral certificates coming from the electoral boards throughout the country.

The results are as follows:

Total of valid presidential ballots:	7,331,387 votes.
Distribution of that total:	
Carlos Andres Perez	3,879,024 votes
Eduardo Fernandez	2,963,015 votes
Teodoro Petkoff	200,479 votes
Godofredo Marin	62,896 votes
Ismenia de Villalba	61,684 votes
Edmundo Chirinos	59,034 votes
Vladimir Gessen	27,833 votes
Andres Velasquez	24,561 votes

Gaston Guisandes	10,720 votes
David Nieves	10,065 votes
Jorge Olavarria	9,969 votes
Alberto Martinez	5,821 votes
Luis Hernandez Campos	2,589 votes
Luis Alfonso Godoy	2,532 votes
Leopoldo Diaz	2,528 votes
Alejandro Pena Exclusa	2,168 votes
Romulo Abreu Duarte	1,513 votes
Hernan Ezcarra Quintana	1,412 votes
Jose Rojas Contreras	1,176 votes
Alberto Solano	818 votes
Napoleon Barrios	736 votes
Arevalo Tovar	432 votes
Romulo Geordi Carvajal	382 votes

By counting the votes, it has been concluded that the majority of valid presidential ballots was obtained by Carlos Andres Perez, a Venezuelan citizen, married, above 30 years of age, and bearer of identity card No 73574. He was nominated by the Democratic Action Party and the Nationalist Party.

The ceremony of presidential proclamation was then scheduled for 14 December 1988 at 1900.

This document should be delivered to the Executive Branch and should be promulgated in the official Gazeta of the Republic of Venezuela.
[signed] Carlos Delgado Chapellin, CSE President
Nerio Raucedo, first CSE vice president
Eduardo Arrocha, second CSE vice president
Lucas Guillermo Castillo, Miguel Gonzalez, Alberto Lopez, Luis Alvarai Dreyer, Amado Cornielles Marcano, Edencio Gallardo, members
Ezequiel Zamora, CSE secretary

[Delgado] In view of the electoral results read by the CSE secretary on behalf of the CSE, I proclaim Carlos Andres Perez Venezuelan president-elect for the 1989-94 constitutional period. [applause]

Victory Proclamation Speech

PA1512033488 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2327 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Speech by President-elect Carlos Andres Perez following the official proclamation of his election as president, at the Supreme Electoral Council in Caracas—live]

[Text] President of the Republic Dr Jaime Lusinchi; members of his cabinet; president and other members of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]; president and vice president of the congress of the Republic; president of the Supreme Court of Justice, His Eminence, Cardinal (Jose Alido Bruni Moratinos), archbishop of Caracas; president of the Claims and Settlement Council [Consejo de la Adjudicatura], Dr Rafael Caldera, former president of the Republic; Vice Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal, former president of the government junta; attorney general, district attorney, and comptroller general of the Republic; presidents and secretaries general of the political parties; His Excellency, the Apostolic Nuncio, dean of the diplomatic corps; generals, vice admirals, members of the high military command; officers members of the 1988 republic plan; presidents of the municipal councils of the Federal District Libertador Municipality and of the municipal council of Sucre District; former candidates for the Presidency of the Republic; distinguished special guests; Venezuelan ladies and gentlemen:

On 20 July when I formalized my nomination for the Presidency of Venezuela, I said before the CSE that I wanted to tell all Venezuelans that I am fully aware of the tremendous responsibilities and difficulties associated with being president of the Republic in 1989. It requires, as never before, an iron will, constant concern, and a determination to reconcile differences. Therefore, reconciliation [concertacion] will be the keynote of my administration.

Today, as I return to this important organization to be proclaimed president-elect, I fully reiterate the meaning and scope of those words. I have considered them carefully, and they cannot be taken away by the wind. I am assuming great difficulties, challenges, and responsibilities. In the face of these challenges that are common to us—because nobody can evade them and no one can ignore the concerns of his country—the basic strategy for all Venezuelans must be reconciliation.

Therefore, the policy of my administration will be reconciliation. It will be an intelligent and tolerant policy, calm, determined and clearly defined. I know I must expand on the concept of reconciliation.

How do I understand it, and what are the commitments the various sectors of society must make? We all accept the same premise: No sector—state or private citizen—is qualified to confront alone the challenges of this moment in our history. The state is no longer the source of abundant or unlimited resources that it appeared to be at one time. The Venezuelan state is confronting extremely serious problems that we can briefly summarize as follows: revenue reductions and foreign debt obligations, which suffocate, restrict, and curtail our own possibilities for development and run counter to the general welfare of society. We can add other things such as rising expectations and aspirations.

We must be especially clear, objective, and rational in dealing with the panorama we will face in February 1989. I will not reject any contribution that can be made to study that panorama. On the contrary, I will demand contributions at all times, as I am doing now in this solemn ceremony. I will not wait until I assume the presidential duties on 2 February to ask for your contribution, because I want to assume my duties with well-defined ideas, plans, and proposals. For that reason, I want to speak a little about the policy of agreement. The

policy of agreement means direct participation in the making of political, economic, social, cultural, and scientific decisions. The policy of agreement is the search for higher levels of social efficiency through community participation in a big effort toward Venezuelan renewal and modernization.

I cannot wait until February 1989 to talk about and assess the country's problems along with the help of major sectors of Venezuelan society. I am sure that the policy of agreement is not only adequate and necessary at this time in our history but also essential.

The country's success will depend on our capacity to reach agreements, and we must not question that success. I am determined to speak frankly. We have caught a glimpse of a general and well-established consensus in this country: an open, social, fair, participatory, solid, and balanced democracy. We are experiencing an era of deep changes and for that reason our era—this Venezuelan and Latin American era—is not only complex but also decisive. We are experiencing an era of major changes in the local areas, the region, and the world. There is a favorable atmosphere for understanding, negotiation, and dialogue between the world powers. The same atmosphere exists among countries in this region. The same atmosphere must exist among Venezuelans.

When discussing the big national problems, we must understand the challenges, needs, and changes that we must face. I will not silence those who question our policy of agreement, because it is too demanding and because it forces us, above all, to give up unilateral privileges in order to make the effort that the country demands. There will be no easy decisions, and we must undertand that from this moment on.

Our country is one of the best countries in the world, and we can say that with pride. We have many natural resources, a trained labor force, human resources, professionals and experts who work in various parts of the world on the cutting edge of big technological changes. We have a demanding and very willing youth who await the future impatiently.

Under no circumstances should we claim to have been deceived. The steps we must take and the decisions we must make are not easy. They are difficult and we must, by all means, avoid making mistakes. The economic panorama is highly complex both in our local and foreign economic affairs. Concerning foreign economic problems, the debt problem has not been solved in a satisfactory manner, in a way that does not endanger our social stability, or in a way that does not curtail our right to growth and prosperity.

It is a priority issue for all Venezuelans. It is also a priority for all Latin American countries and it is becoming an important issue for the great nations: They realize this economic relationship can not continue because it is undermining the world economy.

We should double our efforts to seek solutions compatible with our national interest. I have just returned from a brief and fruitful visit to the countries of Asia, the Persian Gulf, and Africa—Algeria and Egypt. They are all oil producers and most of them suffer from foreign debt problems. In all of these countries, I found a firm commitment to work together for a reasonable solution without confrontation. As for OPEC and the world oil market, I held talks with the leaders of those countries and they told me I was right to be optimistic about the stabilization of the oil market and firm but prudent price increases.

In Kuwait, I attended the 4th meeting of the South Commission, of which I am a member, which is now headed by former President [of Tanzania] Julius Nyerere. I learned of the commission's progress in having developing countries move toward South-South cooperation. I went to Trieste, Italy, where I visited the Science Academy of the Third World and the International Center for Physical Theory, where I met with young scientists from Latin America—including Venezuela—Asia, and Africa. They are all united and determined to help us gain access to science and technology, which will lead our countries to economic independence.

My busy 4-day tour of three continents ended yesterday with a meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush. At this meeting, with the best attitude toward understanding and cooperation, and in a dialogue between friends without the regular protocol formalities of the top offices that we are to hold, we were able to identify common interests, overcome difficulties, and agree on future efforts for the sake of cooperation and in the search for solutions in line with our national interests. I was explicit, specific, and firm in pointing out problems—such as the national debt—which seriously jeopardize our welfare and our possibilities for development. I must frankly state that I returned to Venezuela satisfied and confident over the spirit of understanding, the frankness, and the willingness to understand that I perceived from the man who will assume the U.S. presidency in a few days. This is true to the point that I dare predict that Venezuela and Latin America will have a friend in President Bush, a friend who will talk with a willingness to become closer and to cooperate for the sake of a complete understanding of our mutual interests and for the sake of solutions that take into consideration the urgent needs of our economies and the advisability of relations that yield practical and opportune solutions to the problems that demand our common attention.

Although I have already mentioned this matter, I deem it appropriate to give specific suggestions regarding our chief export, oil. We are convinced that the price of oil will improve. However, in the immediate future, we cannot expect prices to be as dynamic as in the 1st half of the 1980's. Moreover, the well-learned lesson tells us that abrupt and surprising price increases also lead to or cause abrupt declines, with considerable harm to the economies of our countries as well as to the industrialized countries.

From now on we must have better foresight. We must not let ourselves be motivated by illusory short-term benefits. I have been able to discuss this with rulers and heads of state during the various meetings I have had with them recently and to gain their concurrence in this regard.

This vision of Venezuela, its future, its great destiny, reminds me that I am not here solely because I wanted—and succeeded—to be president again. Instead, I am responding to a commitment to my party, the Democratic Action Party, which made me its presidential candidate, and to the people of Venezuela, who elected me on 4 December. I was given a clear mandate to make changes in our institutions and to meet the objective of correcting courses and of rethinking national development plans based on the solid foundations of our experience. Although this experience has brought us to the crisis we are now enduring, it allows us to turn the crisis into a starting point and to make simultaneous changes in many aspects of the country's life.

Admittedly, the institutional structure has lagged behind. It becomes necessary to sign the pact to reform the state, which the political parties agreed on during the electoral campaign. On this singular occasion of my life as a public official, I come to reaffirm that commitment. I come especially to reaffirm my commitment to the fight against corruption. This blight, in the public and private sector, is undermining the bases of democratic institutions.

The current exchange system, which preserves privileges and corruption, has turned into a hindrance for economic development. The financial policy lacks sufficient flexibility and autonomy to meet the economy's changing needs. Tariff and tax structures need to be urgently modernized. Public actions still respond to criteria and guidelines prepared for a public sector that is less complex and diverse than the current one. Moreover, this public sector is entangled in the complaisance that comes from excessive state intervention, which hampers and weakens the vitality and output of the private sector.

Compounding this situation, we have the gradual loss of human resources, a problem the public sector has been experiencing due to a misunderstood policy of austerity [3-second break in reception]...the departure of the most qualified men from the public sector to the private sector [2-second break in reception] ...greater economic opportunities. We must reverse this. The public sector must be staffed by adequately paid personnel, mainly by people who are convinced that their participation is indispensable to pull the country out of the crisis. We will strive to enhance the role of the public sector, or the public administrator. This way, this sector, together with the private sector, can produce and promote policies to structurally change Venezuela's economy and society.

In the international arena, Venezuela's actions must be more active and dynamic in a more interdependent world, where progress in communications, new technologies, and the internationalization of the economy make the strengthening of an economic diplomacy—to modernize traditional diplomacy—even more relevant and urgent. There is an unlimited horizon for Venezuela if we correctly enter the international economic sphere. Only then will we be able to improve the nation's economic prospects. We cannot solve our problems if we remain on the sidelines of international politics. We must actively participate if we are to seriously face the problems of foreign financing, trade, and investment, as well as to promote regional cooperation and integration.

In the next 5 years, our policies will promote growth together with social efficiency as I announced and explained during my electoral campaign. The welfare of Venezuelans will be the main concern of my government. Narrowing the differences in society will not be a possible byproduct of economic policy, but rather its basic objective. We will take on the challenge of poverty with optimism and full confidence in the capacity of the country to find positive solutions to our crisis.

The challenge calls for making a series of structural, economic, institutional, political, and social changes to lead the country toward an economic growth that is compatible with progressive levels of social welfare for the vast majority. The year 1989 will be decisive in that 5-year period. The financial problems we are facing considerably reduce the scope for action in economic policy and we cannot allow inflation to get out of hand by stimulating false growth.

This is where Venezuela can gain advantages to solutions that other Latin American countries have adopted, provided we undertake a series of coherent structural and institutional changes. It is possible to stabilize the economy in a short period of time, and thereafter guide it to grow without inflation. This means we must remove obstacles that hinder growth in the agricultural and industrial sectors. In this manner, we will produce the necessary goods and services to start a permanent trend to increase and stabilize the non-traditional exports which, together with the public exports, will earn the foreign currency the country needs.

Up until now, petroleum has generated the revenue for supporting all sectors. The situation has changed, and we must not trust our future to such a vulnerable commodity. The private sector must produce the foreign currency necessary for its imports. The government will provide the necessary incentives, eliminate administrative obstacles, and provide a framework of suitable policies.

Tourism will be an important and growing part of the new economy: creating conditions for its development and providing employment and foreign income. Another purpose will be to provide capital for financing new investments.

We will work together to solve the foreign debt problem by obtaining financing from private and multilateral sources, modernizing the internal financing system to get

rid of distortions, and stimulating the entry of new capital. It is imperative, in view of the country's new circumstances, to rationalize the role of the state in the economy—and not just as a condition of the government action we are planning. There will be no more intervention because of inertia or bureaucracy, or without good reason or justification. The state will play an increasingly strategic role, with less intervention.

I will reinstitute the economic guarantee that was suspended 27 years ago in order to provide a framework of legal guarantees to private enterprise, and we will act effectively to return to the private sector the enterprises and the economic activities that are not considered strategic.

We will dismantle the permissiveness [permiseria] and we will provide the public sector with the capacity to communicate at all levels to make the state more flexible and to achieve reconciliation.

The changes to be made in 1989 will be framed within that strategic perspective. In that way, we will jointly face the serious problems of inflation, the drop in international reserves, and financial and foreign exchange imbalances. Consequently, the goals for 1989 will be: controlling inflation, stabilizing international reserves, reducing the public deficit, and protecting the revenue designated for social programs. These goals will be difficult to achieve and will only allow a moderate growth during the 1st year of our administration. Those goals, however, will allow us to eliminate the obstacles for a sustained and noninflationary growth that will begin in 1990.

From this very moment, after being officially proclaimed Venezuelan president-elect, I want to be consistent with my electoral promises. I want to clear up all doubts and uncertainties that a crisis could create—a crisis such as the one we are experiencing now—in the minds of businessmen, employees, and Venezuelans in general.

The country is getting ready to begin a new presidential period amid not too promising prospects for the national economy and without great optimism. Recognizing the difficult times we are experiencing, we want to tell Venezuelans that we are sure we have the means and resources to overcome these difficulties if we are willing to confront them realistically by mounting joint and determined efforts.

To achieve this goal, we will implement trade and foreign exchange policies. We will eliminate the obstacles encountered in foreign trade and in regard to declining general supplies. We will conduct the necessary actions to solve the foreign debt problem and regain a positive flow of foreign financial resources for Venezuela. We will reduce the public sector deficit and its inflationary impact, and we will finance the resulting deficit with foreign resources.

We will promote structural changes, and we will reinforce the role of private investment. We will maintain and reorganize the demand side of the economic equation through an active social wage policy. There will be less secrecy in the government decisionmaking process.

In summary, we will work to reduce the foreign, financial, and social gap in order to create the adequate atmosphere for investment, both by Venezuelans and foreigners.

Before ending my speech, I would like to recognize some people. I would like to recognize the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], its president, its members, its experts—all of whom guaranteed the cleanliness and impartiality that gave us unquestionable electoral results. I want to recognize the Armed Forces, because through the Republica Plan, they guaranteed Venezuelans's right to elect their leaders. The Armed Forces did that now, as they did it before, with decorum and while strictly adhering to the CSE norms.

Those have been the basic statements I wanted to communicate to all Venezuelans. Many of you are asking a question that is apparent to me: Why did the president-elect not wait until 2 February to make these statements? And I answer: because we have to save time, and because I plan to begin working in an orderly and systematic fashion with all of the country's political, economic, and social groups in order to begin building the foundations of my government plan.

I have already started. That is also the reason for the trip I concluded yesterday. I began that trip right after the elections.

I also have the support of the serious, concerned, and systematic efforts which President Lusinchi's government is making to facilitate the work of the upcoming government.

With the positive results of President Lusinchi's 5 years in office—although he worked under very adverse conditions—we will rescue Venezuela and will reorganize the economy.

The year 1989 will present us with the economic challenges I mentioned. It will also present us political challenges, because in 1989 we will conduct a process of changes in the social and state structures, without excluding political parties, which will demand utmost clarity, balance, and wisdom. I am absolutely sure that we will suceed, and that we will responsibly fulfill Venezuelans' aspirations for renewal and participation.

I want to be positive and optimistic because I trust the Venezuelan people and our resources.

In February I will be sworn in as president of Venezuela for the second time. I have not not become conceited because of the historic significance of this circumstance.

I have come to the presidency because of my commitment to government action for a modern Venezuela. I have come with more experience and with an overall view of problems—of the Venezuelan, Latin American, and world problems. I have come with the firm decision of not taking a rest when performing my duties as president. I will go about my trade as president to serve all Venezuelans—to those who voted for me and to those who voted for other candidates.

I will head a tolerant government that will make room for disagreements and that will be open to dialogue and willing to compromise. My government will not be limited by partisan policies or exclusive pacts. It will be one of national coordination and transition toward the magic 3d millennium in human history, which begins for the new Venezuelan generations in the year 2000, hardly 7 years away from my last year in office.

These are my thoughts and my commitments in the beginning of the last decade which separates us from the 21st Century. I am certain that I will be the president of a country with a deep awareness of its potential. It will be a country that will be more confident in its future. Let us get down to work! [applause]

Reiterates Electoral Promises

PA1512050288 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0020 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Speech by President-elect Carlos Andres Perez at the Caracas Plaza after being proclaimed winner of the presidential elections; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text]... my government's main objectives, I come before the people to repeat that I have not forgotten my campaign commitments. [applause]

You, the Venezuelan people, elected me as your next president to face with determination and realism the social problems affecting all sectors of our national community. [applause] You, Venezuelans, also elected me to face the problems affecting the middle class, which is falling dangerously close to poverty.

I have come here following my proclamation as the next Venezuelan president to tell you that I have not forgotten any of the commitments and promises I made to the Venezuelan people. [appaluse]

In my speech tonight I have defined the fundamental policies that will be followed by my governmennt—on the basis of reconciliation—to reactivate the economy and put into motion all of our country's potential. However, I do not feel inhibited, as my main commitment is with the poor people, who require the president's attention. [applause] We are going to tackle the problem of the downtrodden people, the problem of unemployment; we are going to remember the people in the slums, the people in the countryside, the unemployed people in the lowest groups of our society. [applause]

You, dear compatriots, who overwhelm me with your support and your confidence, must know that next year will be a difficult year; that next year we must reactivate the economy to start on the path toward growth and well-being. This will require sacrifice, but the sacrifice must be shared among the various groups of our national community, so that the workers and popular groups will not be the only ones affected.

However, I will not use this as a pretext to tell the hungry and unemployed over television and radio that they must wait for the economy to recover. No, no, and no! I will immediately undertake the main objectives of social democracy, which is the philosophy of the Democratic Action Party which nominated me and helped me become the Venezuelan president. [applause]

Tonight, I am overwhelmed by different feelings, by the happiness and pride of becoming the president of all Venezuelans for the second time. [applause] I am also overwhelmed by the responsibilities laid upon me as manager of the government to be installed on 2 February. I accept with enthusiasm, with total determination, the commitment that Venezuela has laid upon me, and my government will not disappoint you! [applause]

Here at the Caracas Plaza, I see people waving their hands as they did during the electoral campaign, and the Venezuelan stations broadcasting this speech also have an audience listening to my words. I can visualize in their homes the optimistic faces of people who are listening to me and who dream of a different Venezuela. I send to them a message of work, work and work, so that together we can begin to recover the welfare of all Venezuelans.

There will be no discrimination in my government. Yesterday we were divided by our electoral preferences; yesterday we acted on the basis of political proselytism. However, from now on we will act on the basis of Venezuelan proselytism for Venezuela, in a concerted effort to solve our problems. [applause]

I also send greetings to the foreigners who work and struggle here along with us Venezuelans. We want to share with them the vast homeland that emerged from the universalistic ideas of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator! [applause]

Citizens of Caracas: You are the stage from which I send a simple and sincere greeting to all my compatriots, to all the inhabitants of our country, so that they will know and strengthen their optimism and confidence that I will honor my electoral promises to the letter. [applause] Today you greet me with euphoria, optimism and happiness.

However, my hope, purpose, and objective is to receive a salute like this when I hand over the Presidency in 5 years to the new president. [shouts] I once told my party's workers when they supported my presidential candidacy that I did not hope or ask to be carried on

their shoulders to Miraflores [the presidential residence]. I told them I hoped Venezuela's workers would carry me on their shoulders out of Venezuela [as heard] because I kept my commitment to the people.

To the workers, to the peasants, here is my hope and my commitment, which I will keep to the fullest. I will be a president whose chief pride will be to walk the streets and see the smiles of people who are pleased with the way I am facing the country's problems. Compatriots, do not expect miracles in the next 5 years. Do not expect easy solutions. What we earn will be achieved by our efforts and sacrifice. However, be assured I will not protect privilege of any kind in Venezuelan society. [shouts]

With my mandate, a new political situation has opened up for Venezuela. Moreover, 30 years of democracy have given us experience and shown us our mistakes. We must set aside partisan exclusivity and pacts that exclude others. We are going to give the country's communities and the neighborhood associations a shared responsibility in government. [applause]

Now, after the many words spoken during the election campaign, and now, after my words to you, which summarize my commitments as the proclaimed president-elect, comes the hard part. Now comes the important part. Now comes the challenge with my own history as a popular leader. I will keep, I will keep, I will keep my word with the people of Venezuela! [applause] That sums up what I came to tell you. Onward, friends! Venezuelans all, let us get started! Let us get started! Let us get started! [applause]

Perez Pleased With 'Fruitful' Bush Meeting

PA1412200388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez held a fruitful meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush. During their conversation, Perez guaranteed that both governments will cooperate sincerely on such issues as the Central American crisis and foreign debt.

During the meeting, which took place at Bush's White House office, the two men discussed the developing countries' difficulties in paying their respective foreign debts, the latest developments in Central America, and the situation in Panama. Relations between Venezuela and the United States, however, were emphasized; it was then that Bush said it was an honor to meet with the president of a country with which the U.S. Government has always maintained good, strong relations.

President-elect Perez, meanwhile, said that for 1 hour and 15 minutes he and Bush held a sincere discussion that will benefit both nations. The two presidents-elect later went into the White House garden where they met with the press. After a few brief remarks, Bush yielded the microphone to his Venezuelan counterpart, who summed up the success of this important meeting.

[Begin Perez recording] Gentlemen reporters, I must open my statement by telling you that I left the meeting with President-elect Bush very impressed with his sincere language and very sincere expressions of concern over Latin America's problems, and, in this particular case, Venezuela's.

I am certain we are going to cooperate sincerely and successfully on mutual problems such as the Central American situation, Panama, and another problem that worries us all: Venezuela's and other Latin American countries' foreign debt. [end recording]

Perez Denies Asking for U.S. Envoy's Departure

PA1412174388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Caracas, 14 Dec (AFP)—The report that Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez had requested the departure of Otto Reich, U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, was denied today by the U.S. Embassy and by the new Venezuelan president.

The report, attributed to the liberal Council of Hemispheric Affairs, which is based in Washington, was echoed by the local press as Perez was traveling to the United States to meet with his colleague, George Bush, in a meeting that was attended by Ambassador Reich.

Asked about his request that Reich leave, Perez responded: "That is absolutely false. There would have to be objective cause to ask for the removal of an ambassador, and there is no conflict between the Venezuelan Government and the U.S. ambassador or between national sectors and an ambassador who has performed his duties with much prudence and effectiveness."

The U.S. Embassy in Caracas also flatly denied the report.

Two years ago some leftist sectors criticized the approval of Reich's appointment because of links with Cuban anti-Castro groups. On that occasion the local press picked up rumors that Perez had criticized the appointment of the ambassador.

Brazilian Paper Interviews President-Elect

PY1412020088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Dec 88 p 8

["Exclusive" interview with President-elect Carlos Andres Perez by Cristian Bofill in Caracas on 7 December]

[Text] O ESTADO: You intend to promote a social pact among the government, workers, and businessmen. Brazil is attempting, with great difficulty, to implement a similar pact. What is your formula for such a pact?

Perez: I believe that the first thing to do is to admit that there are conflicts of interest in society, conflicts between capital and labor. These conflicts should be made clear

so that formulas for understandings can be found to accomodate the interests of everyone for the country's benefit. It is up to the government to seek such a pact.

O ESTADO: What type of agreement can be reached?

Perez: We must go slowly. It is best to start with a 6-month agreement on basic points: inflation, prices, and salaries. It is also essential to form a supervisory committee, including government representatives, businessmen, and workers.

O ESTADO: What would be the government's contribution? To reduce its expenditures?

Perez: I have two immediate tasks. The first one is to make economic policies meet the expectations of both national and foreign businessmen and to eliminate uncertainties. The second one is to meet the expectations of the popular sectors. I cannot separate social and economic actions. Therefore, I am opposed to neoliberalism, which separates economic and social issues.

O ESTADO: Aren't you afraid of repeating what has happened to Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who, after being the most popular president over 3 years ago, has become the most unpopular president in Peruvian history?

Perez: It is impossible to satisfy everyone. However, I am sure that the basic aspirations will gradually be met. It is important indeed to arouse a national sentiment that the chosen path is the correct one and that it is worth overcoming the hardships that could crop up in its path.

O ESTADO: Concerning the rescheduling of the foreign debt, what do the Brazilian, Argentine, and Peruvian experiences teach you?

Perez: They clearly teach me that we must discuss the problem jointly. We already know that the path imposed by the creditors leads nowhere. We must jointly propose negotiations that will profit from the experience gathered in the past few years.

O ESTADO: Do you intend to become a Latin American leader?

Perez: I am a supporter of Latin American integration. The countries cannot act alone. One should look at the EEC or at the agreement signed between the United States and Canada. I intend to contribute to the Latin American integration effort.

O ESTADO: You have supported the Sandinist revolution. What is your current position concerning the Nicaraguan Government?

Perez: I am not sorry about having helped overthrow the tyranny of Anastasio Somoza. However, I am not very satisfied with what is happening in Nicaragua now. The people have a right to live under a pluralist democracy. However, I also do not like the policy of blockading Nicaragua. I believe that the right approach is to strengthen the process undertaken by the Contadora Group and the peace agreement signed by the Central American presidents. Democracy will be established in Nicaragua only through a process based on dialogue.

O ESTADO: What will be your policy concerning Brazil?

Perez: Brazil is a basic country for any Latin American integration project to proceed. I intend to strengthen our relations to the utmost. President Jose Sarney and the main political parties of Brazil are already aware of the need for integration.

O ESTADO: Would you like to see your friend Leonel Brizola become Brazilian president?

Perez: I must be a little careful concerning this question. I would like to see the holding of free presidential elections in Brazil in a process in which all parties participate democratically. I am very good friends with Leonel Brizola, undoubtedly one of the great Brazilian political leaders. However, I am also a friend of leaders from other parties, such as the PMDB, in which there are figures capable of guarnteeing the democratic development of Brazil. I view the development of Brazilian democracy with great optimism and hope.

O ESTADO: You are advocating reforms in Venezuelan democracy. Do you believe the current system is already outmoded?

Perez: One of the blunders made by the Latin American democratic movements involves forgetting that our democracy, which has been gained with great difficulty, can only be strengthened through permanent renewal. Democracy transforms the society and these transformations arouse the need to renew the institutions. If this is not done, there will be a risk of compromising the credibility of the democratic institutions.

O ESTADO: What are the main reforms you intend to implement?

Perez: We must promote profound reforms in order to keep pace with the great transformations that have taken place in Venezuela over the past 30 years. As I pledged in my campaign, I am going to call all the parties to reach a broad agreement. We will reform the judicial branch and strengthen the supervisory functions of congress and those of the parties' internal democracy. Another important measure involves the holding of direct gubernatorial elections in the 20 Venezuelan states because governors are named by the president. We also want direct mayoral elections because mayors are currently chosen by city councils.

O ESTADO: How would you epitomize, in a few words, your main plans?

Perez: To modernize Venezuela and struggle for Latin American integration.

Guyana

Hoyte Criticizes Human Rights Group in Address

FL1512000788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 14, CANA—Members of the Guyana police force will not be allowed to get away with wrongdoing, President Desmond Hoyte has said. They "will be dealt with promptly and condignly", Hoyte warned in an address this week to the 36th annual conference of the Guyana police association.

He told the policemen that the local force was second to none in the world and he pledged his and his government's continuous support for those who discharge their duties with honesty, dedication and integrity. State radio reported him as saying the force has performed its duties faithfully and steadfastly and has earned a reputation of integrity among Guyanese.

The state-owned "CHRONICLE" newspaper said the Guyanese leader was critical of those organizations and "faceless and gutless" persons who try to besmirch the good name of the police force. The paper said that in an "obvious reference" to the Guyan Human Rights Association (GHRA) which has been critical of the police, he said those "self-appointed ambitious people" are "furthering their own ends and venting their spleen".

Some 20 members of the force recently sued executive members of the GHRA for libel they are alleging was published in a GHRA document which accused police of torturing a number of persons.

According to the CHRONICLE, Hoyte also reported public contributions to the force this year reached the 100,000 dollars mark (one G dollar - 10 U.S. cents)—surpassing last year's 40,000 dollars. This, he said, was indicative of the high esteem in which the force is held by law-abiding citizens.

Suriname

UN High Commissioner on Refugee Repatriation

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[Text] The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said it is not encouraging the repatriation of Surinamese refugees from French Guiana.

After peace talks in June, the Surinamese Government and rebel leaders signed an agreement calling for the thousands of Surinamese refugees to voluntarily go back to their home country but observers say the refugees who did so, soon went back to French Guiana because they felt threatened.

The Surinamese Government has, meanwhile, defended its decision to arrest human rights activist Stanley Rensch. The government statement said there was strong evidence that Mr Rensch had been working with rebels who are fighting to overthrow the government.